

THE FUTURE WE WANT

Nobel Prize Dialogue India 2025
in partnership with Tata Trusts

A Youth Showcase

Parag Art Wall: Collaborative artwork by young voices from across India



Children from Bengaluru showcase their artworks

At the heart of the Nobel Prize Dialogue India 2025, hosted in exclusive partnership with Tata Trusts, lies a simple yet profound question – What is the future we want? While Nobel Prize laureates and leading experts explore this question on stage, a parallel discussion unfolds through art, with a vibrant, large-scale collaborative art display created by young dreamers from classrooms and libraries across the country.

In March 2024, Parag, a Tata Trusts initiative for children's literature and Pratham books facilitated an experiential workshop for six women artists from underrepresented regions and used open prompts to generate a sharing around their childhood experiences which resulted in the book "What I Want". The artists illustrated their dreams and what they would have liked to have in their childhood.

On the backdrop of the Nobel Dialogue, Parag team took this book to 200 children across to reflect on two simple prompts – 'The future I want for myself,' and 'The future I want for my country.' They responded with uninhibited creativity and vivid

visions of the world reimagined. These serve as a mirror of their diverse hopes and ambitions, and a map to the rest.

These individual artworks have travelled from different places across three geographies – a village in Koppal, the city of Bengaluru, and a slum in Mumbai – to reach The Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru – together creating a single collective artwork that forms a vibrant backdrop to the Nobel Prize Dialogue India 2025. From each region came a unique set of challenges and aspirations, resulting in a truly diverse collection of art.



Children from a slum in Mumbai draw their dreams for the future

In the Mumbai slum – where space, living conditions, and dignity are challenges to be reckoned with and navigated everyday – the activity became an unexpected platform for self-expression. Teenagers who had rarely spoken about their dreams opened up: young boys spoke about the importance of girls having the same right to dream as them, while others depicted themes like housing for all and gender equality. Some spoke of kindness to abused animals, some of self-improvement, and others of becoming more compassionate adults – with a hope for a better future for all.

In Koppal, a child drew only skyscrapers, seeing taller buildings as a possibility of more homes for people and freed-up space for planting trees. Another child in Bengaluru drew a colourful unicorn as part of a future for herself, wanting to paint the entire world bright, happy, and colourful.

In the same manner as books supported by Parag serve as a doorway for children to relate to multiculturalism, different lived contexts, and to the world around them, this Dialogue intends to spark knowledge-sharing, mutual understanding, and an open cross-cultural exchange of ideas to deepen the connection between science and society and address shared realities as well as age-old and contemporary challenges.



The art intends to showcase that, mirroring the spirit of the discussions taking place in this hall – of diverse perspectives, bright ideas, curiosity, collaboration, creativity, and a belief that the future must be built with and not just for those who will live it.

A child from Mumbai draws her dreams of the future she wants

About Parag

Parag, an initiative of the Tata Trusts, was set up in 2005 to support the development of and access to good quality story books for children in Indian languages. We support school and community libraries so that children have free access to books and an open and vibrant environment that supports reading for pleasure. We also work to nurture the children's literature sector through awards, professional courses and linking various stakeholders together through events for teachers, librarians and facilitators.

Parag has supported publication of 1000+ original stories for children across the age group of 5-16 years. We have supported publishing in multiple scheduled languages, as well as in non-scheduled languages, such as Mundari, Bhilori, Pawri and Santhali, in which children find it impossible to get books. We support adaptation of print books into Braille, audio format, and tactile books to increase access to children with disabilities.

Parag is a pan India initiative and Parag supported books have been read by over 40 million readers in schools, community libraries and homes.