BRIDGES

FOR CONSCIOUS TRAVEL

A Changemakers' Collective of
Community Inclusive & Planet-Sensitive
Hotels & Experiences.



September 16, 17, 18, 2026

BRIDGES IS AMONG THE SUBCONTINENT'S FEW CARBON-ASSESSED EVENTS, ACTIVELY BUILDING TOWARDS NETT ZERO GOALS.



The 9th *Edition.*

BRIDGES FOR CONSCIOUS TRAVEL

BRIDGES began as a conversation around slower, more meaningful travel long before sustainability became industry vocabulary.

Nine editions later, it continues to bring together a growing collective of hotels, travel designers, conservationists, storytellers, policymakers, and change-makers shaping the future of travel across the subcontinent.


CONVERSATION
"Travel in the Age of AI"
Ram Badrinathan
Aakash Parekh
Meghana A.T.
Theatre Artist and Pedagogue
"Climate Change Ka Muj
nepal
Stand with NEPAL
The floods have brought immediate hardship to parts of Nepal. But beyond relief lies another responsibility: helping communities recover without withdrawing from the places that depend on thoughtful tourism.
BRIDGES
FOR CONSCIOUS TRAVEL
JOHN ASH

Vision & *Mission.*

i. VISION

To create a more conscious travel ecosystem rooted in coexistence, authenticity, community inclusion, and ecological responsibility.

A SHARED INTENT

ii. MISSION

To connect pioneering hotels, travel curators, and global buyers who believe tourism can become a force for cultural preservation, biodiversity conservation, and regenerative development.

BRIDGES
FOR CONSCIOUS TRAVEL

What is BRIDGES about?

BRIDGES exists at the intersection of —

Travel · Culture · Conservation · Community

Design · Heritage · Ecology · Slow Living

THE EVENT SHOWCASES

— Boutique & owner-led hotels

— Wilderness lodges & heritage stays

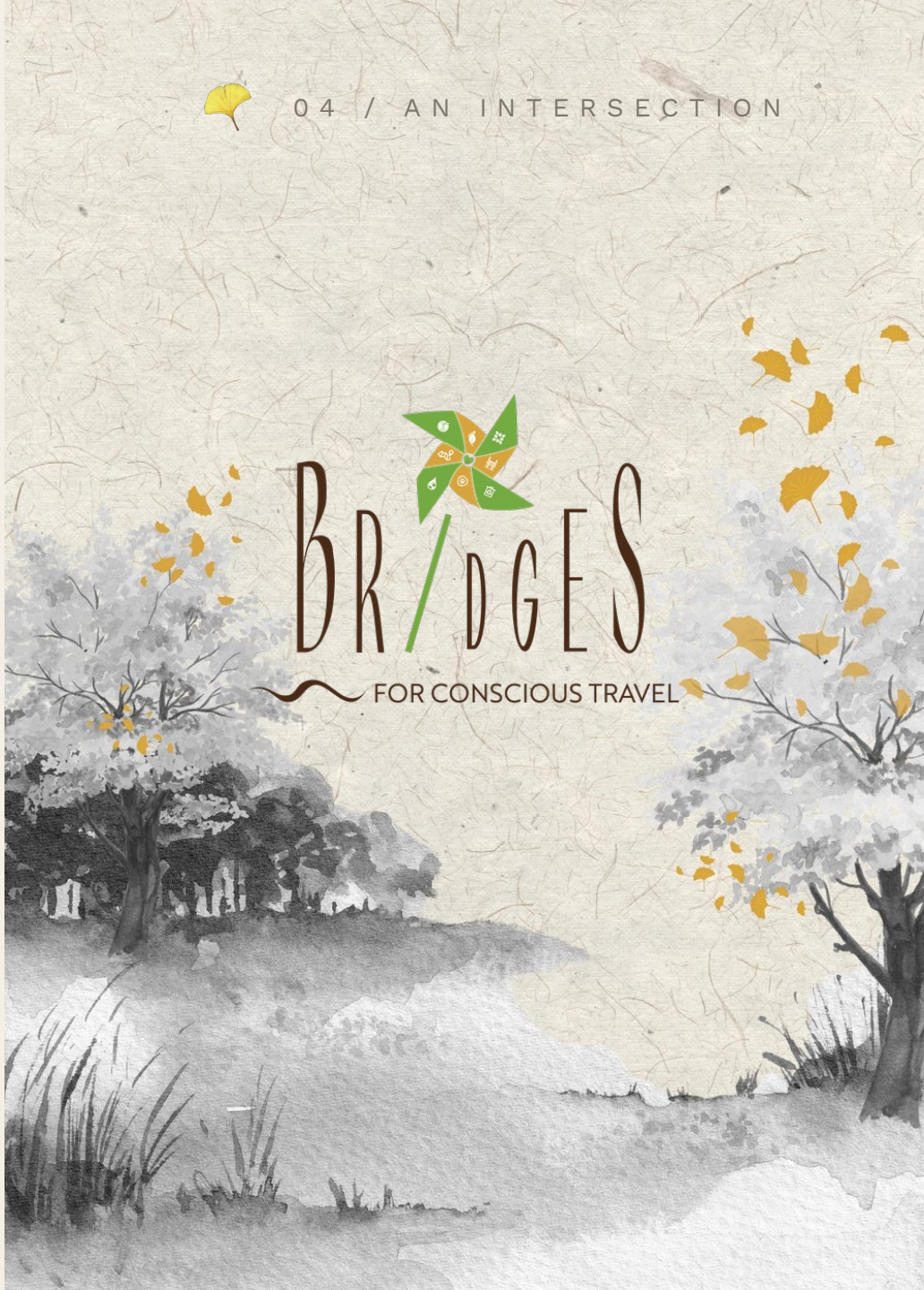
— Community-led experiences

— Art, culture, craft, and food traditions

— Slow travel journeys

— Regenerative tourism models

— Conservation-led hospitality



A CURATED COLLECTIVE

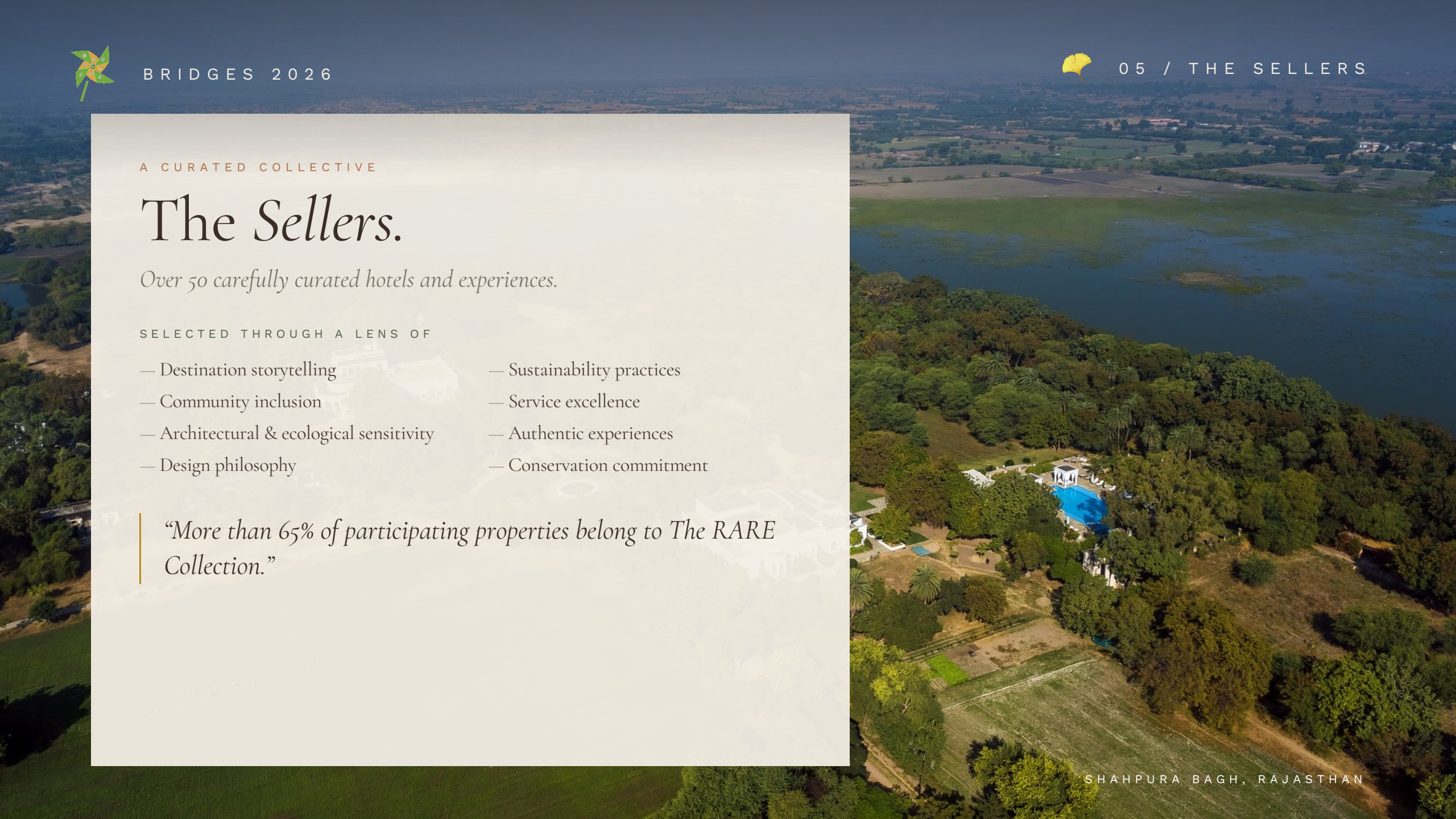
The *Sellers.*

Over 50 carefully curated hotels and experiences.

SELECTED THROUGH A LENS OF

- Destination storytelling
- Community inclusion
- Architectural & ecological sensitivity
- Design philosophy
- Sustainability practices
- Service excellence
- Authentic experiences
- Conservation commitment

> *"More than 65% of participating properties belong to The RARE Collection."*



SHAHPURA BAGH, RAJASTHAN

A Showcase of *Landscapes.*

The showcase spans multiple ecological and cultural landscapes across *India*, *Nepal*, and *Bhutan*, representing over *16 states* and *3 countries*.

From Himalayan villages and wildlife reserves to restored havelis, tea estates, plantation stays, wetlands, deserts, and indigenous cultural landscapes, *BRIDGES brings together hotels that are deeply rooted in place rather than detached from it.*

16+ STATES

3 COUNTRIES

7 LANDSCAPE TYPOLOGIES



BRIDGES 2026: *The Numbers.*

BRIDGES 2026 was deliberately designed as a slow, conversational marketplace, allowing genuine time for buyers and sellers to understand one another beyond the conventional sales pitch.

CHANGEMAKERS

58

HOTEL EXHIBITORS

CHANGEMAKERS

5

MUSEUM OF STORIES

CHANGEMAKERS

2

NGOS

CHANGEMAKERS

2

SPONSORS

TRAVEL TRADE

53

FOREIGN TOUR OPERATORS

TRAVEL TRADE

114

DMCS, INBOUND & DOMESTIC OPERATORS

MEDIA

10

GLOBAL & INDIAN MEDIA ATTENDEES

KNOWLEDGE PROGRAMME

2 Keynotes

7 × 7 *Catalyst Talks*

1 Performance

MARKETPLACE Two full days of buyer-seller engagement, combining pre-scheduled appointments with time for open meetings and spontaneous conversation.

What can travel *protect, regenerate* and sustain?

BRIDGES for Conscious Travel 2026 was held on 16, 17 and 18 September at The Imperial, New Delhi, bringing together some of the most thoughtful people and places shaping tourism across the Indian subcontinent.

It was not designed simply as another travel marketplace. BRIDGES was envisaged as a meeting of minds, values and possibilities: a space where commerce could sit comfortably beside conservation, where hospitality could be discussed alongside community and culture, and where the industry could ask itself a more demanding question.

THE 2026 EDITION WAS THE NINTH RARE SHOWCASE AND THE THIRD ITERATION OF BRIDGES FOR CONSCIOUS TRAVEL.



Sponsors & *Partners.*

BRIDGES is possible because of organisations willing to support not only an event, but the larger conversation around the future of tourism.

SPONSORS

RARE INDIA

RAJASTHAN TOURISM

LADAKH TOURISM

Rajasthan brought to BRIDGES a destination story extending far beyond forts and palaces, into wildlife, desert ecology, craft, rural communities and living culture.

Ladakh brought another vital perspective: that some of the world's most extraordinary destinations are also among its most fragile, requiring tourism built around restraint, carrying capacity, local livelihoods and respect for limited resources.

PARTNERS

INDIAN SCHOOL OF NATURE

NETTZERO

TOFTIGERS

AVID LEARNING

WASTE WARRIORS

Avid Learning served as Programme Partner, while NettZero and Indian School of Nature supported BRIDGES' ambition to calculate, mitigate and offset the event's carbon footprint.

EXHIBITOR PROFILE · A CURATED COLLECTIVE

The *Changemakers.*

The BRIDGES exhibitor list is intentionally curated.

It brings together independent, owner-led and destination-rooted hotels, lodges, retreats and experiences from India, Nepal and Bhutan, selected not merely for where they are, but for the relationship they have built with their destinations.

AMONG THEM ARE

— Wildlife lodges protecting forest landscapes

— Heritage hotels giving historic architecture renewed purpose

— Himalayan retreats negotiating fragility and remoteness

— Farms and plantation stays reconnecting tourism with agriculture

— Hotels working closely with local communities and craft traditions

— River journeys, wetlands and wilderness experiences

— Living cultural spaces and contemporary destination storytellers

The 2026 Changemakers list spans Ladakh to Kerala, Assam to Rajasthan, Nepal and Bhutan, alongside Museum of Stories participants and NGOs. For commercial purposes, BRIDGES also welcomes selected Friends of RARE: independently owned properties aligned with the ethos of conscious hospitality.

58 Hotels. *Many Geographies.* One Shared Intent.

From snow leopard country in Ladakh and tiger forests in Central India to the painted havelis of Rajasthan, Assam's river systems, Kerala's backwaters, Nepal's living heritage and Bhutan's cultural landscapes, BRIDGES brought together hospitality businesses shaped by radically different geographies.

What connected them was not uniformity. It was the belief that a hotel can be more than accommodation: a custodian of architecture, habitat, memory, livelihoods and place.



THE CHANGEMAKERS · BY REGION

Ladakh	*Himachal Pradesh*	*Punjab*	*Uttarakhand*	*Uttar Pradesh*
Delhi	*Gujarat*	*Madhya Pradesh*	*Maharashtra*	*Goa*
Rajasthan	*Kerala*	*Karnataka*	*Telangana*	*Tamil Nadu*
Assam	*Odisha*	*West Bengal*	*Nepal*	*Bhutan*

Delegate *Profile.*

BRIDGES WELCOMED

The buyer profile was curated to match the quality and intent of the exhibiting collective.

53	Foreign Tour Operators, selected for their interest in experiential, responsible and specialist travel across the subcontinent.
114	DMCs, Inbound and Domestic Operators, including travel companies from Delhi and key feeder markets.
10	Indian and international media attendees, bringing perspectives from travel, hospitality, culture and responsible tourism.
—	Industry leaders, conservationists, cultural practitioners and specialists invited to participate in the opening programme.

The objective was simple: fewer indiscriminate contacts, more meaningful ones.



From Conversation to *Collaboration.*

Days Two and Three were devoted to the BRIDGES marketplace.

Buyer-seller appointments ran from 9.00 AM to 6.00 PM, creating two full days for destination discovery, commercial exchange and new partnerships.



THE HOURS

9:00 am — *6:00 pm*

TWO FULL DAYS · PRE-SCHEDULED & OPEN

THE FORMAT COMBINED

— Pre-scheduled buyer-seller meetings
— Open meeting time
— Informal conversations over meals
— Exposure to regional craft, books, installations and cultural narratives
— Opportunities to develop itineraries and future FAM collaborations

At BRIDGES, the table was never intended to be merely transactional. It was where ideas became itineraries, stories became products and introductions became journeys.

THE IMPERIAL · THE VENUE

A Venue with *a Story.*

The Imperial, New Delhi was chosen deliberately.

BRIDGES needed a setting where world-class hospitality, history, architecture and cultural memory could coexist, a venue that understood luxury not simply through scale, but through heritage and sense of place.

The Imperial became more than the venue partner. Its spaces formed part of the BRIDGES narrative: conversations in historic rooms, marketplace meetings in the Ballroom, meals at Daniell's Tavern and the opening celebration across its lawns.

THE IMPERIAL
New Delhi

A fitting home for an event built around hospitality with memory.



DAY ONE · 16 SEPTEMBER 2026

The Knowledge *Programme.*

Day One was conceived as a three-and-a-half-hour storybook of conscious travel, curated with Programme Partner Avid Learning.

Rather than a conventional conference sequence, sustainability was revealed through stories and lived experience: from fragile ecosystems and regenerative hospitality to owner-led conservation, AI, wellness, pastoralism, heritage and tribal art.



THE PROGRAMME MOVED THROUGH

2	2	7 × 7	1
KEYNOTES	CONVERSATIONS	CATALYST TALKS	PERFORMANCE

The intent was to remain crisp, provocative and human, allowing ideas to be remembered rather than simply presented.

KEYNOTE 01

What Lies *Beneath?*



Arati Kumar-Rao

PHOTOGRAPHER & AUTHOR, MARGINLANDS

Through images and stories from the Sundarbans, Arati Kumar-Rao asked the audience to look beyond the visible beauty of a destination and towards the ecological systems beneath it.

Her keynote considered the fate of fragile landscapes, the realities tourism can overlook and the opportunity for travel to become an ally rather than another pressure upon vulnerable places.

> A powerful opening proposition for BRIDGES:
>
> *To travel consciously, we must first learn to see what is usually unseen.*

CONVERSATION 01

Right Out of Place: *The Legacy of Owner Hoteliers.*

Hashim Tyabji · Toby Sinclair · Michael Dominic

This conversation accompanied the launch of the RARE publication *Right Out of Place.*

From the beginnings of wildlife tourism and Tiger Tops to restored heritage properties, conservation-led hospitality and living cultural landscapes, the conversation examined a generation of owner-hoteliers who demonstrated that tourism could help preserve rather than diminish the places it enters.

> It asked a question central to BRIDGES:
>
> *What happens when hospitality becomes part of the solution to conservation, preservation and cultural continuity?*



RIGHT OUT OF PLACE · THE PUBLICATION

A Book About Hospitality *as a Solution.*

Unveiled at BRIDGES 2026, *Right Out of Place* documents stories in which hospitality became a response to the challenges facing heritage, wildlife, craft, culture and destination identity.

Its launch acquired an added significance in the context of Nepal. BRIDGES used the moment to reinforce a deeply held RARE belief: tourism must stand with destinations not only when they are beautiful and thriving, but also through challenge and vulnerability.

Proceeds from the sale of the publication were pledged towards Nepal relief.

> *Tourism, at its most conscious, can be an instrument not merely of discovery, but of recovery.*



KEYNOTE 02

Regenerative *Travel.*

Amanda Ho

CO-FOUNDER & CEO, REGENERATIVE TRAVEL

Amanda Ho moved the sustainability conversation beyond the familiar ambition of "doing less harm".

Her keynote introduced regenerative principles in hospitality and asked a more ambitious question:

> *Can travel actively contribute to the health of the places it touches?*

It was a natural evolution of the BRIDGES narrative, from reducing negative impact towards creating measurable ecological, social and cultural value.







CONVERSATION 02

Travel in the *Age of AI.*

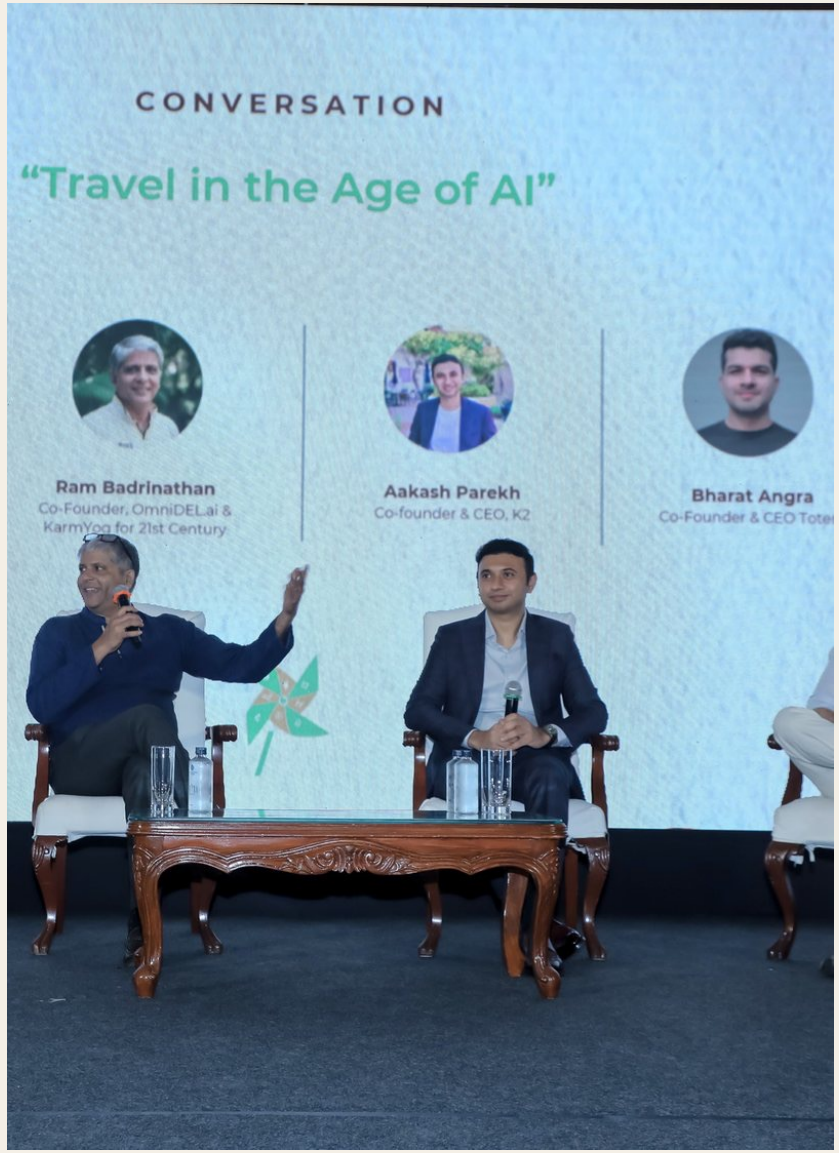
Asad Lalljee · Ram Badrinathan · Aakash Parekh · Bharat Angra

MODERATED BY ASAD LALLJEE

Artificial intelligence is already changing how travel companies operate, design journeys, understand customers and manage complexity.

The conversation examined AI's implications for tour operations, creativity, employment and hospitality technology.

> Yet its most important proposition was perhaps the most human:
>
> *Technology may make travel more intelligent, but judgement, empathy, expertise and relationships must remain at its centre.*



7 × 7

Seven Speakers. Seven Minutes. Seven Ideas Worth Carrying Forward.

The distinctive feature of BRIDGES 2026 was its 7×7 Catalyst format: seven speakers, each given seven minutes to deliver one focused, story-led intervention. The result was intentionally fast, personal and memorable.

The subjects travelled from forests to photographs, wellness to snow leopards, painted havelis to pastoral cultures and tribal art, demonstrating that conscious tourism has no single form.

It is a way of looking at the relationship between people, place and possibility.

7 × 7 CATALYST TALKS · PART ONE

Wildlife, Memory, *Wellness & Community.*



TALK 01

Sharad Vats

The Tiger CEO

What can the tiger teach us about leadership, resilience and survival, and why are forest-edge communities fundamental to conservation?

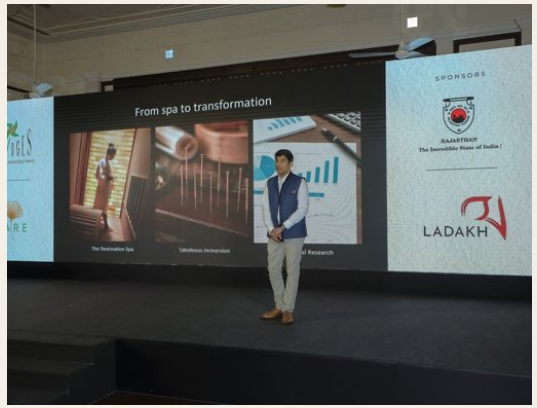


TALK 02

Sophie Hartman

Who Owns a Photograph?

What happens when photographs taken from a community decades earlier finally return home, and what does that teach tourism about reciprocity?

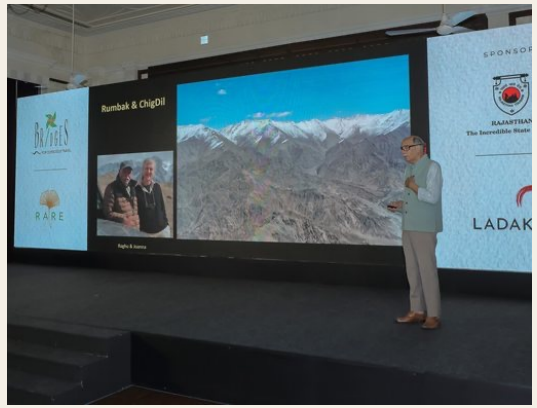


TALK 03

Mahesh Natarajan

25 Years of Ananda's Wellness Heritage

How can ancient traditions and contemporary science combine to create a more personalised and preventive understanding of wellbeing?



TALK 04

Dr. Raghu Chundawat

Conservation & the ChigDil Cooperative Model

How can community-owned tourism create livelihoods while giving local people a direct stake in protecting snow leopards and their landscapes?

7 × 7 CATALYST TALKS · PART TWO

Heritage, Pastoral Knowledge & *Cultural Landscapes.*



TALK 05

Atul Khanna

Shekhawati as a Living Heritage

Restoring the building is only the beginning. Tourism, adaptive reuse and participation can give heritage an economically relevant future.



TALK 06

Dr. Ilse Köhler-Rollefson

Camel Karma for Tourism

The relationship between Rajasthan's Raika pastoralists and their camels became a lens through which to consider traditional knowledge, biodiversity and responsible tourism.



TALK 07

Minhazz Majumdar

Art & Forest Communities

Tribal art can encode ways of understanding landscape, wildlife, spirituality and community that tourism frequently overlooks unless it learns how to look.

PERFORMANCE

Climate Change *Ka Mujhe Kya?*

Meghana A.T.

THEATRE · CLOSING DAY ONE

Day One closed with theatre rather than another presentation. Using humour, storytelling, Bollywood references and audience interaction, Meghana A.T. transformed climate anxiety into something personal, playful and impossible to dismiss.

Her deceptively simple question, “Climate Change Ka Mujhe Kya?”, moved the climate crisis away from abstraction and towards individual responsibility.

> *Because sometimes the most serious conversations become more powerful when we are first allowed to laugh.*



PROGRAMME PARTNER

Avid *Learning.*

BRIDGES partnered with Avid Learning, Essar's cultural arm and one of India's leading arts and cultural programming platforms, to shape the opening programme.

With more than 1,900 programmes presented and over 2 million learners reached, Avid brought to BRIDGES its distinctive ability to connect culture, ideas, technology, heritage and public discourse.

1,900+
PROGRAMMES PRESENTED

2M+
LEARNERS REACHED

> *The partnership ensured that Day One remained what BRIDGES intended it to be: not a procession of speeches, but an intelligently curated exchange of ideas.*

MUSEUM OF STORIES

Not Every Museum *Has Walls.*

The Museum of Stories brought a different kind of destination storytelling to BRIDGES.

FEATURING

— The Localist
— Trocals
— Petrichor by The Blue Yonder
— Bhutan by Dralwa Journeys
— Pahari Miniatures
by Dhami House

Together they demonstrated that culture is not simply housed in monuments or institutions. It is carried in memory, craft, food, oral history, local knowledge, ritual and landscape.









THE EXPERIENCE OF BRIDGES

Ideas You *Could Touch.*

BRIDGES deliberately extended beyond meetings and talks.

THE EVENT ENVIRONMENT INCLUDED

— A bookshelf with books contributed by participating hotels and experience creators

— An interactive textile art installation: a technology-led solution demonstrating how plastic waste can be addressed

— A visual encounter with Muria Gond life in Bastar during the 1980s, through forgotten photographs

— Books and publications offering deeper entry points into culture, conservation and place

— Conversations around craft, restoration, food, forest and memory

---

Because conscious travel should not only be explained. It should be encountered.



STAND WITH NEPAL

Tourism as an *Instrument of Recovery.*

Nepal became an important thread running through BRIDGES 2026.

The floods created an immediate humanitarian need, but they also raised a longer-term question. For destinations whose communities depend significantly on tourism, recovery requires not only relief, but the return of confidence, livelihoods and responsible visitors.

BRIDGES chose not to define Nepal through crisis. Instead, Stand With Nepal expressed a larger RARE belief:

> *Travel should stand with destinations not only when they inspire us, but when they need us.*

Delegates were encouraged to support official relief efforts, while proceeds from *Right Out of Place* were pledged towards Nepal relief.



CELEBRATION · THE OPENING EVENING

A Celebration of the *RARE Community.*

The opening evening moved from *ideas to celebration.*

The BRIDGES community came together to honour the people, places and philosophies that have shaped the RARE journey, accompanied by performances including Barmer Boys in association with Amarrass Records and Shilpa Gowalkar.

> *It was a reminder that culture at BRIDGES was never intended as entertainment added around the edges of a conference.*



RARE CONSCIOUS TRAVEL AWARDS

Recognising the Stewards of *Conservation, Culture & Community.*



The RARE Conscious Travel Awards honour individuals and institutions that quietly and consistently demonstrate how hospitality can become a force for:

Cultural preservation · Environmental responsibility
Community well-being · Destination stewardship

IN 2026, RECOGNITION TOOK FIVE FORMS

01.
RARE SUSTAINABILITY LIGHTHOUSE

02.
RARE SUSTAINABILITY LIGHTKEEPER

03.
BEST RARE HOTEL

04.
BEST RARE HOTELIER

05.
BEST RARE DESTINATION STORY

The Awards are intentionally non-commercial. The ceremony formed part of the opening-night celebration at BRIDGES.

THE RECIPIENTS

RARE Conscious Travel *Awards 2026.*



RARE SUSTAINABILITY LIGHTHOUSE

Khem Villas

Ranthambhore, Rajasthan



RARE SUSTAINABILITY LIGHTKEEPER

Buddhi Bahadur Thapa (Maila Dai)

Tiger Mountain Pokhara Lodge, Nepal



BEST RARE HOTEL

Zhiwaling Heritage

Paro, Bhutan



BEST RARE HOTELIER

Aparna Phalnikar & Sahaj Sharma

Dhyaana Farms, Ellora, Maharashtra



BEST RARE DESTINATION STORY

Dev Shree

Deogarh, Rajasthan

NOT STATUS, BUT STEWARDSHIP: THE PEOPLE AND PLACES DEMONSTRATING WHAT TRAVEL CAN PRESERVE, RESTORE AND SUSTAIN.



RARE SUSTAINABILITY LIGHTHOUSE 2026

Khem Villas, *Ranthambhore.*

Khem Villas began in 2006 on the edge of Ranthambhore with a simple proposition: hospitality could belong to a landscape without taking more from it than it gives back.

Nearly two decades later, that proposition has become everyday practice. Water conservation, solar energy, waste management and locally sourced materials are integrated into operations, while its relationship with the surrounding community and Ranthambhore's fragile ecology remains central to the experience.

It is visible in how a camp is built, how resources are used, how livelihoods are valued and how guests are invited to understand the forest differently.

Sustainability Lighthouse 2026 recognises Khem Villas for making responsible hospitality not an aspiration, but a way of being.

Here, sustainability is not a checklist.

AWARD SUPPORTED BY TRAVEL INN



TIGER MOUNTAIN POKHARA LODGE · NEPAL

RARE SUSTAINABILITY LIGHTKEEPER 2026

Buddhi Bahadur Thapa *(Maila Dai).*

Tiger Mountain Pokhara Lodge, Nepal.

Some people practise sustainability as policy. Others carry it as instinct.

For years, Buddhi Bahadur Thapa, known affectionately as Maila Dai, has been part of a lodge where responsible tourism is lived through small, consistent acts: care for forest and biodiversity, respect for neighbouring communities and an understanding that hospitality begins with belonging.

Maila Dai is one of them.

Tiger Mountain's journey towards regenerative tourism has depended on people who turn an idea into daily practice. Sustainability Lightkeeper 2026 honours the person who has quietly helped keep that light burning.

SPONSORED BY TOFTIGERS

THE AWARDS THEMSELVES

Recognition, *Made Consciously.*

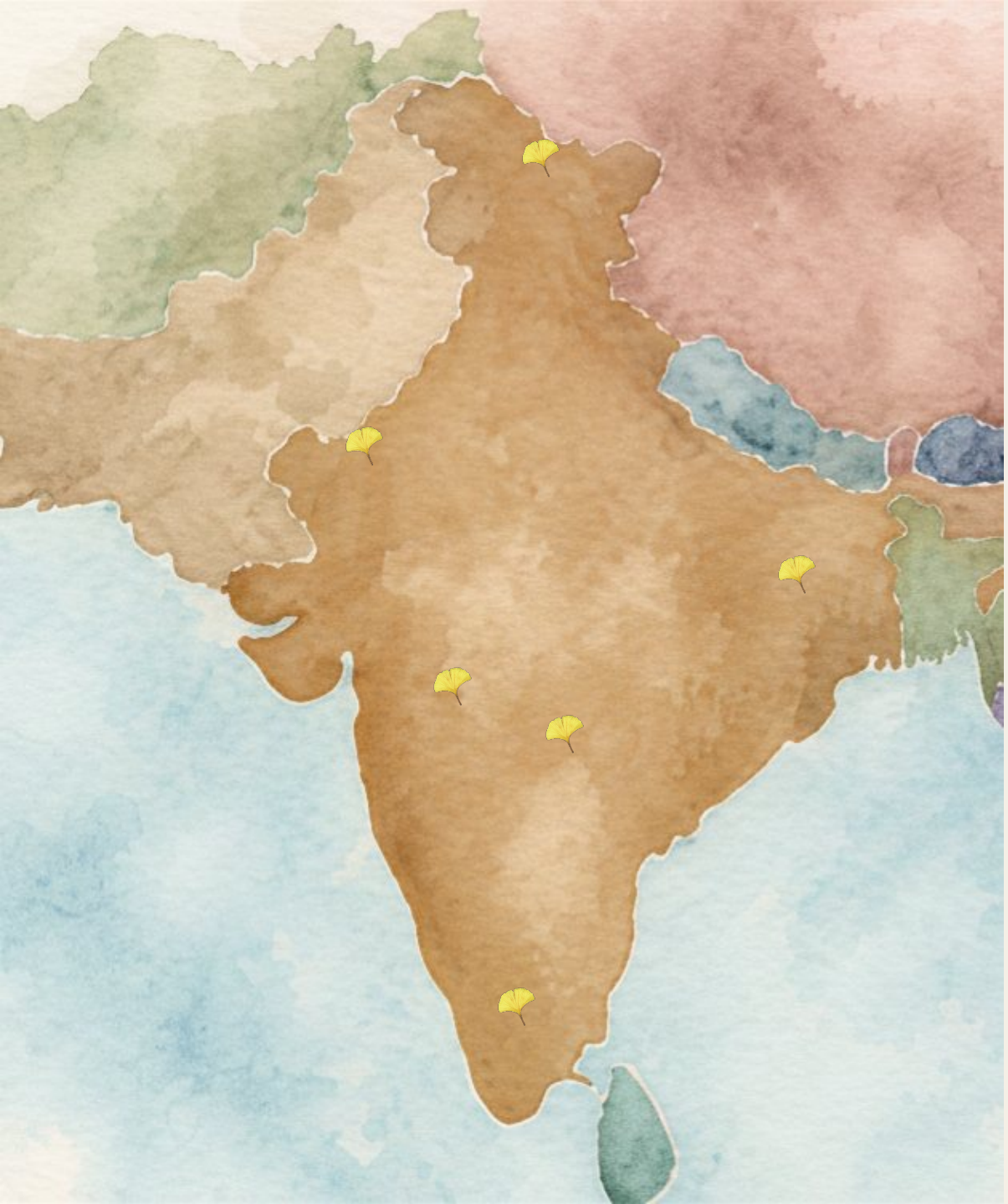
At the RARE Conscious Travel Awards 2026, even the objects of recognition carried the philosophy of the awards.

Each award was handcrafted in Kashmir from recycled paper pulp, moulded, dried and chalk-finished before being meticulously hand-painted by master *naqashgar* Khawaja Mohammad Hussain, who has practised the craft for more than four decades.

The award therefore became something more than a trophy. It became a small act of material reuse, cultural preservation and living craftsmanship.

> *A fitting way to recognise changemakers whose own work is rooted in stewardship.*





BRIDGES 2026 · FAM PROGRAMMES

The Conversation Continued *Beyond Delhi.*

BRIDGES is designed to move travel from discussion into experience. Pre- and post-conference FAM journeys extended the event into destinations across:

01	East India	*04*	Kerala
02	Ladakh	*05*	Telangana
03	Rajasthan	*06*	Maharashtra

These journeys allowed participating travel designers to encounter the properties, landscapes, communities and experiences discussed at BRIDGES firsthand.

Because the strongest destination story is ultimately the one that can be experienced, understood and then intelligently retold.

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

What the Event *Created.*

BRIDGES 2026 brought together:

58	5	2	3	53	114	10
HOTEL EXHIBITORS	MUSEUM OF STORIES	NGOS	PARTNERS	FTOS	DMCS, INBOUND & DOMESTIC OPERATORS	GLOBAL & INDIAN MEDIA

ALONGSIDE

- 2 keynote addresses
- 2 major conversations
- 7×7 Catalyst Talks
- 1 climate-focused theatrical performance
- RARE Conscious Travel Awards
- Interactive art
- Regional craft
- Cultural archives and photography
- Plastic-waste innovation
- Pre- and post-event FAM programmes
- Carbon measurement, mitigation and offset intent

But the more meaningful KPI may be harder to quantify:

new conversations, new itineraries, new partnerships and a stronger collective argument for conscious travel.

CARBON ASSESSMENT · THIRD YEAR OF REPORTING

Measuring What *We Leave Behind.*

BRIDGES is among the subcontinent's few carbon-assessed events. For the third consecutive year, NettZero measured and verified the greenhouse gas emissions of BRIDGES for Conscious Travel, held at The Imperial, Janpath, New Delhi from 16 to 18 September 2026.

AT A GLANCE · TOTAL

79.80

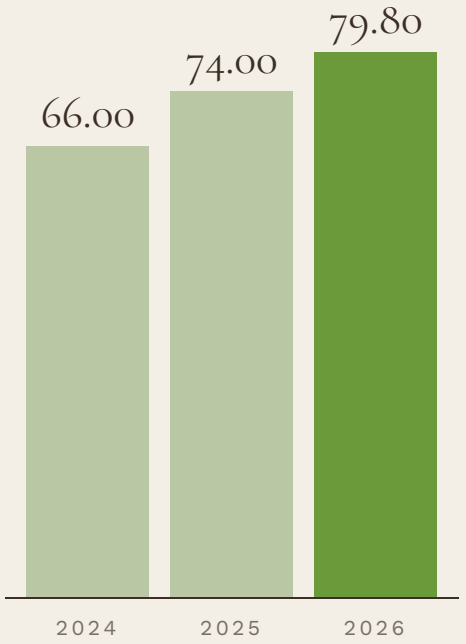
tCO_2e total

PER DELEGATE

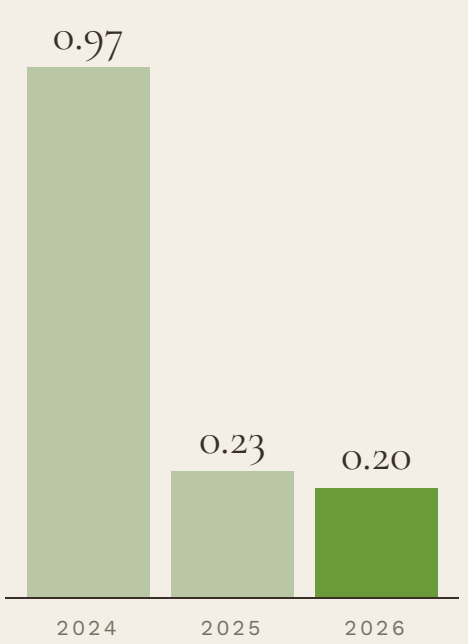
0.20

tCO_2e per delegate

TOTAL EMISSIONS
tCO_2e



EMISSIONS PER DELEGATE
tCO_2e



The total rose on a wider boundary and better primary data, while intensity per delegate fell for *the third consecutive year.*

SOURCE: GHG EMISSIONS MEASUREMENT & VERIFICATION, EXECUTIVE SUMMARY · PREPARED BY NETTZERO ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY TECHNOLOGIES PVT LTD FOR RARE INDIA

KEY FINDINGS

Three Scopes, *One Footprint.*

SCOPE 1

3.83 tCO_2e

4.8% · natural gas

SCOPE 2

3.85 tCO_2e

4.8% · electricity

SCOPE 3

72.12 tCO_2e

90.4% · value chain

SCOPE	2024	2025	2026	CHANGE
Scope 1, direct fuel	0.36	1.45	3.83	*+164%*
Scope 2, purchased electricity	23.80	12.18	3.85	*–68%*
Scope 3, value chain	41.84	60.40	72.12	*+19%*
Total tCO_2e	**66.00**	**74.00**	**79.80**	***+8%***

WHAT DRIVES THE NUMBER

Scope 1, 3.83 tCO_2e. Piped natural gas at the hotel, captured for the first time at this venue and allocated at 42% of the 4,500 SCM drawn over the event period. No generator sets were run and no diesel was consumed.

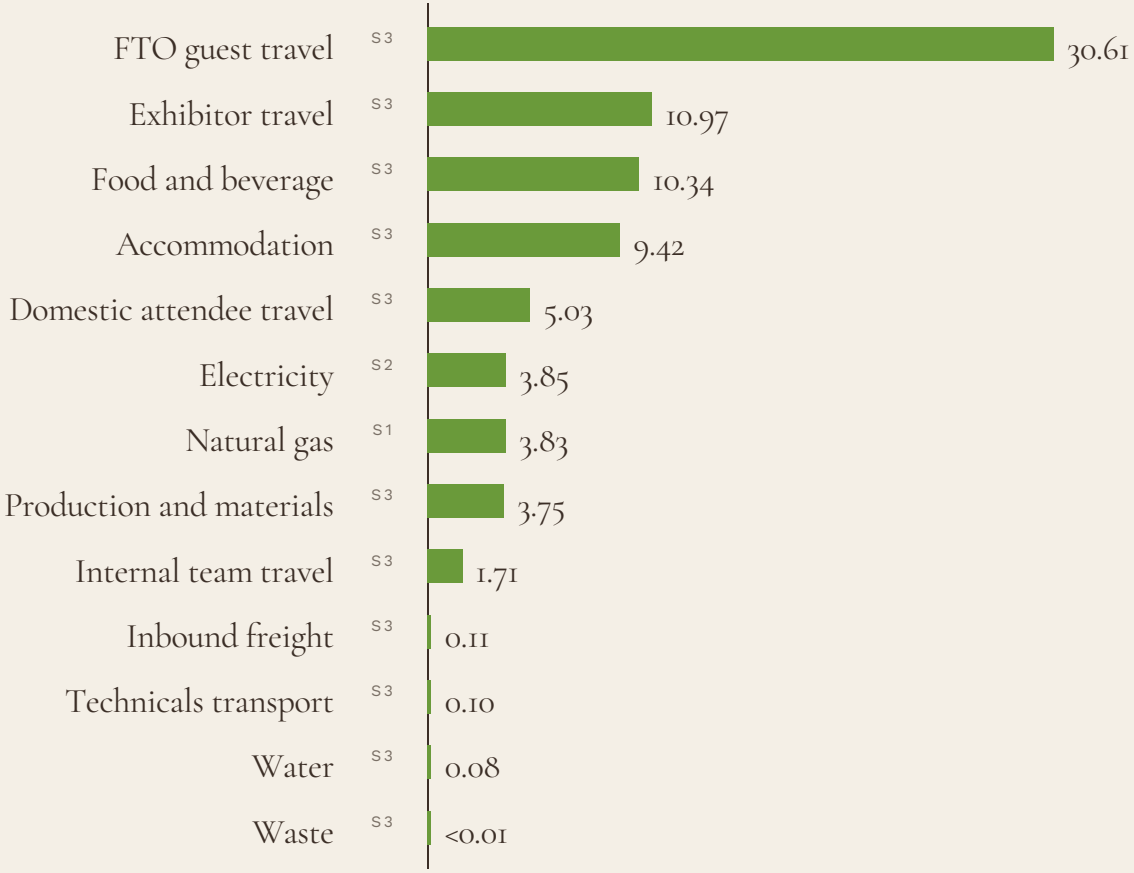
Scope 2, 3.85 tCO_2e. Down 68% from 12.18 tCO_2e. The event rented metered space in place of a whole-property booking, readings came off three dedicated meters, and the grid factor declined.

Scope 3, 72.12 tCO_2e. Nine tenths of the footprint. Travel alone is 48.32 tCO_2e, set by where guests fly from rather than how the event is run. Food is 10.34 tCO_2e, higher on measurement rather than consumption, since the 2026 figure was built from the kitchen indent item by item. Accommodation is 9.42 tCO_2e on room nights roughly doubling to 160. Exhibitor travel, domestic attendee travel, inbound freight and equipment transport were measured for the first time, which is why the total rose 8%.

SOURCE: GHG EMISSIONS MEASUREMENT & VERIFICATION, EXECUTIVE SUMMARY · PREPARED BY NETTZERO ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY TECHNOLOGIES PVT LTD FOR RARE INDIA

WHERE THE EMISSIONS SIT

Total emissions by category · tCO_2e, total 79.80 · S = scope



DELEGATE TRAVEL & INTENSITY

Most delegates do not travel to India solely for BRIDGES, so charging their full flights to a three-day event would overstate the footprint. Travel was allocated on a time basis using the D.E.E.D returns, reducing reported delegate travel from 148.42 to 48.32 tCO_2e. Because the total is dominated by travel the event does not control, emissions per delegate is the fairer measure of performance, and that has fallen from 0.97 to 0.23 to 0.20 tCO_2e across three years.

CLOSING POSITION & NEXT STEPS

— Waste was 9 kg of dry recyclables, under 0.01 tCO_2e, collected and certified by Chintan Trust on 20 September 2026. Build materials went back to the vendor rather than to disposal.

— For 2027: mandatory D.E.E.D at registration, city of origin for every attendee, a red meat ceiling in the catering brief, vendor-side waste segregation, and an agreed venue data pack.

2027 TARGET ≈ 0.19 *tCO_2e per delegate*

SOURCE: GHG EMISSIONS MEASUREMENT & VERIFICATION, EXECUTIVE SUMMARY · PREPARED BY NETTZERO ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY TECHNOLOGIES PVT LTD FOR RARE INDIA

THE BRIDGES IDEA

Commerce & Conscience *Are Not Opposites.*

BRIDGES was never designed to choose between commercial tourism and responsible tourism.

Its proposition is that the two must increasingly become inseparable.

A successful hotel needs a healthy destination.
Wildlife tourism needs functioning ecosystems.
Heritage hospitality needs living culture.
Community tourism needs viable livelihoods.
Luxury needs resources that can endure.

The strongest tourism businesses of the future may therefore be those that understand something deceptively simple:

protecting the destination is ultimately good business.

THANK YOU

Many BRIDGES *Were Built.*

None of BRIDGES 2026 would have been possible without the people who gave it substance: our Changemakers, hosted buyers, speakers, sponsors, partners, destination collaborators, artisans, performers, media, production teams, volunteers and every delegate who participated with curiosity and intent.

Thank you for bringing your ideas, questions, work and, above all, your presence.



> *BRIDGES was never about building a stage.* It was about building connections between people and places, commerce and conscience, hospitality and responsibility, the travel industry we know and the one we still have the opportunity to create.

Many BRIDGES have been built. *Now, let the journeys thrive.*

RARE

ABOUT RARE INDIA

A RARE *Story*.

RARE's journey towards conscious travel did not begin as a sustainability strategy. It evolved through years of working with independent hotels and experiences whose identity depended upon protecting the very things travellers came to encounter: forests, heritage, communities, craft, cuisine and culture.

Today, RARE works with owner-led hotels, retreats, wildlife lodges, heritage properties and destination experiences across the subcontinent, telling stories that redefine luxury through authenticity, responsibility and a strong sense of place.

BRIDGES for Conscious Travel is RARE India's platform for turning that philosophy into collective action.

> *The Ginkgo leaf at the heart of RARE's identity remains a metaphor for resilience and regeneration.*

THE BRIDGES 2026 REPORT

catalyst

n. /ˈkæt.əl.ɪst/

an event or person that causes great change.

A CONSENSUS FOR

Conscious *Travel.*

BRIDGES FOR CONSCIOUS TRAVEL | RARE