



Malang Folk Foundation

+91 91666 48282

info@rajasthankabiryatra.org

www.rajasthankabiryatra.org

Near Dharnidhar Temple, Sriramsar Road,
Bikaner – 334001 (Rajasthan)



    | [rajasthankabiryatra](https://rajasthankabiryatra.org)



Annual Activity Report of

Malang Folk Foundation

Financial year 2024-25

*A year of revival, resonance,
and reimagination of shared
roots and evolving voices.*



“We ‘preserve’ folk songs, at the same time that our way of life destroys the singer...we are proud of our museums, where we display the damning evidence of a way of life that we have made impossible.”

- Ananda K. Coomaraswamy

2024-25 Annual Report
(01 April 2024- 31 March 2025)

Malang Folk Foundation
CIN : U88900RJ2024NPL093368

Edition Compendium

01. Malang Ethos
02. About Malang—Vision | Mission | Pillars
03. Year in Review by the Director
04. The Founding Loom — Malang Team
05. A Year in Threads
 - Rajasthan Kabir Yatra
 - Kahat Kabir Retreat, Pokhran
 - Ajoo Gooja Children’s Festival
 - MESF Folk Arts Skill Program
06. Cultural Archives & Documentation
 - Artist Dossiers
 - Home Satsang Records
 - Heritage Collaborations & Civic Initiatives
07. Financial Report 2024–25
08. Institutional Alliances & Media Mentions
09. Malang Voices
10. Forthcoming Initiatives 2025–26
11. Contact & Conclusion

Malang Ethos

About Malang

Malang Folk Foundation, registered as a **Section 8 non-profit company** in 2024, is dedicated to preserving and promoting India's living cultural traditions through music, art, craft, storytelling, and community engagement. Rooted in Rajasthan and connected to cultural communities across India, Malang works to support the people who keep heritage alive—offering fair exposure, sustainable opportunities, and pathways for cultural knowledge to thrive. More than an organisation, Malang operates as a public-spirited cultural movement shaped by the values of justice, dignity, and shared joy, placing **“Folk First”** at the centre of its work.

Vision

Malang envisions a vibrant cultural ecosystem where everyday traditions are recognised as extraordinary expressions of identity and collective memory. We aspire to create harmony between heritage and contemporary life, where stories, skills, and artistic practices become languages of learning, dignity, and opportunity. From the deserts of Rajasthan to urban centres beyond, Malang seeks to build cultural bridges that strengthen communities and nurture a deeper sense of belonging.

Mission

Our mission is to revive, research, sustain, and reimagine India's folk heritage as a source of livelihood, education, and social empowerment. We archive traditions, support artists, and create public platforms that honour their craft with respect and purpose. Through festivals, learning programs, and grassroots collaborations, we connect culture with opportunity and ensure that creativity continues across generations. Our journey is to keep the rhythm of folk alive—dynamic, inclusive, and deeply human.

Thematic Pillars

- Folk Revival
- Cultural Preservation
- Artistic Empowerment
- Education & Training
- Community Immersion
- Sustainable Future
- Nourishment, promotion, and evolution of art and culture

Director's Pen

Year in Review

As I reflect on the first year of Malang Folk Foundation, I am filled with immense gratitude and pride for what this young yet deeply rooted initiative has achieved. Founded with the vision to preserve, promote, and reimagine Rajasthan's folk traditions and India's cultural heritage, our journey in 2024 has been one of community, collaboration, and creative renewal.

At its core, the Foundation stands for the belief that folk culture is not just a heritage to be archived- it is a living, breathing force that connects people across generations and geographies. Through our work this year, we have sought to keep that force alive while equipping our artists and communities with tools for a sustainable future.

In the past year, MFF reached several meaningful milestones. Our flagship Rajasthan Kabir Yatra 2024 brought together hundreds of artists, poets, and seekers in a moving celebration of love, harmony, and spiritual inquiry—strengthening our mission to create spaces where traditional arts connect the rural and the urban, the past and the present. Earlier in February, the Children's Festival – Ajoo Gooja opened a joyful world of folk storytelling, theatre, and music to young participants, nurturing the next generation of cultural custodians.

We also advanced artist empowerment through our partnership with the Media and Entertainment Skills Council (MESC), equipping folk artists with digital, documentation, and social media skills to support their journey toward self-reliance. Alongside this, our team continued field archiving, artist documentation, and rural collaborations to strengthen cultural livelihoods. Together, these efforts deepen our long-term vision of building a resilient creative ecosystem where folk art thrives as a sustainable cultural economy.

Looking ahead, we aim to deepen our engagement through artist residencies, digital archives, and partnerships that link Rajasthani and Indian folk with global audiences. As we look to the future, we remain committed to ensure that the wisdom, resilience, and beauty of our folk heritage continue to inspire generations to come.

Many thanks to our well wishers and supporters for guiding and supporting our mission, our project director Nikita for overseeing our operations, to our wonderful staff and volunteers for their passions and patients, and to our extended community to promote, preserve and showcase our cultural heritage to the world.

Gopal Singh

Director, Malang Folk Foundation

A Year in Threads

The slow, patient weaving of 2024–25
thread by thread, village by village, voice by voice.

2–6 Oct 2024

Rajasthan Kabir Yatra
(5-day traveling festival,
Bikaner district)

1 Nov – 31 Dec 2024

Folk Artist Upskilling Program
(MESC)

6–8 Dec 2024

Kahat Kabir Retreat,
Pokhran

10 Jan 2025

Monthly Bikaner
Heritage Walk

22–23 Feb 2025

Ajoo Gooja Children's
Festival

30 Mar 2025

Geeta Chandran Ji &
troupe performance
(BDA & Nagar Nigam)

As the year unfolded, these strands crossed,
knotted, and intertwined to shape the carpet that
became Malang's first year of weaving into being.





Festival Highlight

Rajasthan Kabir Yatra 2024

The 2024 edition of the Rajasthan Kabir Yatra marked one of our most impactful journeys to date, bringing together hundreds of artists, scholars, students, and seekers for a five-day travelling festival across rural Rajasthan. This year's Yatra created an immersive cultural experience that blended music, poetry, dialogue, and community life, reaffirming the spirit of openness and shared humanity that defines the festival. RKY 2024 travelled through five villages across two districts, hosting morning baithaks, community meals, artist interactions, and large evening satsangs that drew thousands of local residents and yatris from across India and abroad. Artists from Rajasthan, Kutch, Malwa, Bengal, Maharashtra, and Tamil Nadu shared the verses of Kabir, Meera, Bulleh Shah, Shah Latif, and other mystic poets—creating a powerful confluence of folk traditions on a single moving stage.

A key highlight of this edition was the multidisciplinary engagement: alongside musicians, we hosted storytellers, visual artists, photographers, and documentarians who captured the lived textures of rural life and the spirit of the Yatra. This year also saw a significant rise in participation from young students and first-time yatris, strengthening our efforts to nurture a new audience for folk and devotional art.

The 2024 Yatra deepened local community involvement through partnerships with panchayats, women's groups, and village hosts who helped design routes, prepare meals, and co-curate evening gatherings. These collaborations helped generate local economic activity while reinforcing the festival's core value—folk art as a shared, lived experience rather than a staged performance.

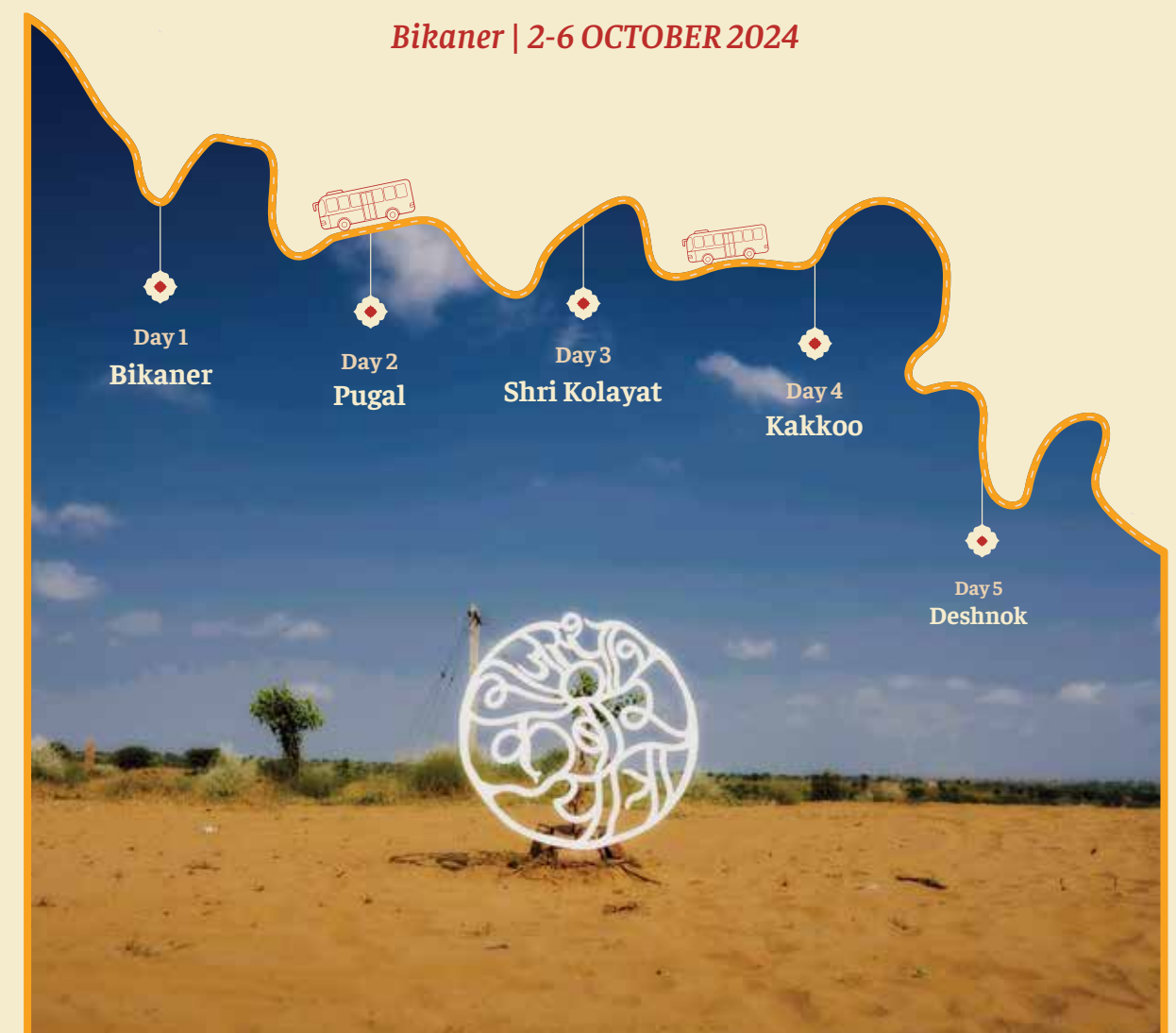
Overall, RKY 2024 strengthened the movement's cultural footprint, expanded its national reach, and reaffirmed its role as one of India's most meaningful travelling festivals dedicated to the preservation and celebration of Bhakti and Sufi traditions.

Outcomes & Impact of Rajasthan Kabir Yatra

Revival of Vaani Parampara
Academic Contribution
Heritage Preservation
Communal Harmony
Musical Literacy & Exposure
Spiritual Alignment
Rural Tourism Boos Community
Led Cultural Movement
Socio-Cultural Integration
Cultural Continuity & Evolution
Expanded Global Footprint

- 40+ Artists | 25 Performances
- 100+ Regional Artists
- 40,000+ Total Audience
- 300 Registered National Yatris
- 72 hours of documentation

Bikaner | 2-6 OCTOBER 2024



Curated Experiences

Kahat Kabir Workshop

Pokhran | 6-8 December 2025

Hosted at the historic Pokhran Fort, this three-day academic engagement centred on Kabir's philosophy, oral traditions, and contemporary relevance. The workshop combined interpretative dialogues, वाणी parampara demonstrations, and structured learning circles to deepen public understanding of Kabir's epistemic, social, and ethical frameworks.

"These 3 days were pure magic, pure bliss.
I met the version of myself that I never thought
existed. I met the softer me, the brighter me."

- Nitya Singh

35 Participation Attendees

12 dmUr Singers

9 Sessions + Field visit.

Ajoo Gooja Children's Festival

(22-23 Feb 2025)

A transformative milestone for the city

Ajoo Gooja was conceptualised as a space where children could encounter the arts not as spectators but as active participants—an approach rooted in Malang's belief that cultural literacy, creative confidence, and access to knowledge must begin early.

Designed as Bikaner's first children's creative learning festival, it brought together 35+ workshops, 60+ facilitators, 20+ national artists, and a multi-publisher book fair, weaving traditional Rajasthani crafts with contemporary learning practices. The event created an inclusive learning environment that encouraged curiosity, hands-on exploration, and deeper engagement with the region's artistic heritage.

- Total Children : 17,500+
- Govt Schools : 4,500
- Private Schools : 10,000
- Others : 3,000

Ajoo Gooja set in motion a gentle cultural shift—broadening children's creative exposure, strengthening community involvement, and demonstrating how thoughtfully curated artistic environments can nurture expression, imagination, and confidence. It underscored the possibility of shaping a generation that grows up with a deeper connection to its cultural roots and a stronger capacity for reflective, independent thinking.



Training & Skill Development

MESC Folk Arts Skill Program (Bikaner)

Bikaner | Nov–Dec 2024

Trained **800+** folk artists in digital skills, content creation & performance readiness.

Outcome

Artists created digital portfolios, gained online visibility & accessed new income pathways.

Change Indicators

- Independent digital portfolios
- Earning through online performances, collaborations, and commissioned work.
- Global visibility of Rajasthan's folk traditions
- Preservation and evolution of folk culture



Cultural Archiving & Documentation

Malang continued to strengthen its archival mission by documenting artists, field practices, and lived traditions across western Rajasthan.

Artist Dossiers

Malang prepared professional dossiers for multiple artists, capturing biographies, performance histories, photographs, and stage-ready portfolios. The foundation supported Mir Basu in representing rural folk music at a cultural showcase with Barefoot College, Beawar, expanding the visibility of local musicians.

Archival field recordings were completed with senior artists including Kutle Khan, Darra Khan, and accompanying musicians from Hamira, alongside emerging voices from nearby villages. The material now forms part of an active, growing archive intended for future curation and public projects.

Home Satsang Records

The Home Satsang Program evolved into an intimate cultural laboratory—bringing together folk musicians, small audiences, and home hosts for slow, reflective evenings of music and conversation.

Annual Highlights

- Satsangs Held : **18**
- Artist Groups Documented : **12**
- Solo Artists Recorded : **6**
- Villages Covered : **7**
- Raw Footage Archived : **42 hours**
- Edited Sessions : **9**
- Interviews Captured : **15**
- Home Hosts : **11**
- Community Members Engaged : **320**
- Audio Tracks Preserved : **24**

The resulting archive contributes to Malang's long-term commitment to documenting living cultural ecosystems with care and authenticity.

Heritage & Civic Collaborations

Played an advisory role in several civic and tourism-led initiatives during the year. The focus remained on strengthening heritage narratives, community presence, and cultural identity within public spaces.

Bikaner Heritage Walks

Curated heritage walks were conducted across Bikaner's old city, highlighting its sandstone architecture, spiritual sites, and craft traditions. The walks connected participants directly with living history through stories, built environments, and community engagement.

Major Stops on the Route

The Bikaner Heritage Walk quietly echoed Malang's deepest values—of walking with people, listening to places, and letting living traditions speak for themselves. As participants stepped through five centuries of stone, song, and craftsmanship, they experienced culture not as a spectacle but as a shared inheritance shaped by artisans, storytellers, and community rhythms.



Nagar Nigam Jhanki

(Republic Day Tableau)

Malang conceptualised the 2025 Republic Day tableau for Nagar Nigam, presenting Bikaner’s heritage through arches, domes, chhatris, and jharokhas, combined with folk elements such as puppetry and live music. The tableau showcased the city’s identity as a blend of architectural legacy and living cultural expression.



Bikaner Development Authority Logo Design

The logo centers around a classic Bikaneri Chatri with an arch, an unmistakable emblem of the region’s architectural heritage. This element reflects the royal lineage, cultural identity, and protective authority of Bikaner—perfectly representing a body entrusted with shaping the city’s urban future. Beneath the Chatri, three flowing curved lines in blue and green expand outward, visually merging tradition with forward momentum.



Red-Orange (Chatri & Arch)
Authority, energy, and the distinctive Bikaneri red-stone tradition.

Blue (Curved Lines)
Innovation, digitization, and future-focused urban development.

Lime Green (Curved Lines)
Sustainability, green initiatives, and conscious urban growth.

Black (Typography)
Wordmark, ensuring maximum readability, boldness, and institutional clarity.

Rajasthan Divas Cultural Evening

On 30 March 2025 at Ravindra Rangmanch, Bikaner Curated the Rajasthan Divas cultural evening featuring folk music, poetry, and a special Bharatanatyam performance by Padma Shri Geeta Chandran and her troupe. The event was organised in partnership with the District Administration, Nagar Nigam, Department of Tourism, and BDA, and marked a significant cultural moment for the city.



Financial Summary 2024–25

Malang Folk Foundation operated on a lean, community-centred economic model. Expenditure focused on artist payments, production work, documentation, travel, event execution, and administrative essentials. Revenue was generated through collaborating organisations, workshop hosting, small-ticket program contributions, and community support.

RECEIPTS *(Left Column)*

PARTICULARS	AMOUNT (₹)
Donations Received	99,81,820.00
Bank Interest	13,420.00
TOTAL RECEIPTS	99,95,240.00

PAYMENTS / EXPENDITURE *(Right Column)*

Program Expenses	68,74,260.00
Rent Expense	1,20,000.00
Travel & Conveyance	17,85,360.00
Repairs & Maintenance	47,900.00
Advertising & Promotion	19,580.00
Membership & Subscriptions	9,520.00
Legal & Professional Fees	92,100.00
Postage, Printing & Stationery	14,670.00
Office & Administration	1,18,340.00
Staff Payments	7,21,790.00
Bank Charges	35,030.00
Depreciation	9,110.00
Miscellaneous Expense	13,000.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	88,51,170.00

BALANCE SUMMARY

Total Receipts	99,95,240.00
Total Expenditure	88,51,170.00
CLOSING BALANCE	11,44,070.00

Collaborations, Partners & Media Presence

Institutional Partners

- District Administration, Bikaner
- Department of Tourism, Rajasthan
- Nagar Nigam, Bikaner
- Bikaner Development Authority (BDA)
- Barefoot College, Tilonia
- Cultural Hosts & Local Organisations

Press Mentions & Media Coverage



Voices From the Field

- 920+ folk artists
- 140+ women artists
- 18 artist clusters connected
- 65 first-time performers

Closing Note

Malang Folk Foundation completes this year with gratitude—for the artists who trusted us, the communities who welcomed us, the institutions that partnered with us, and the individuals who showed up with openness and curiosity.

Every program, walk, gathering, and satsang this year reinforced our belief that culture is built collectively—through listening, sharing, remembering, and celebrating.

Malang will continue to work with the same values in the coming year:
care, craft, community, and cultural continuity.

