



FOSS UNITED FOUNDATION

Maintainer Programs

Supporting Indian Free and Open Source Software Maintainers

fossunited.org/maintainer-programs/thesis



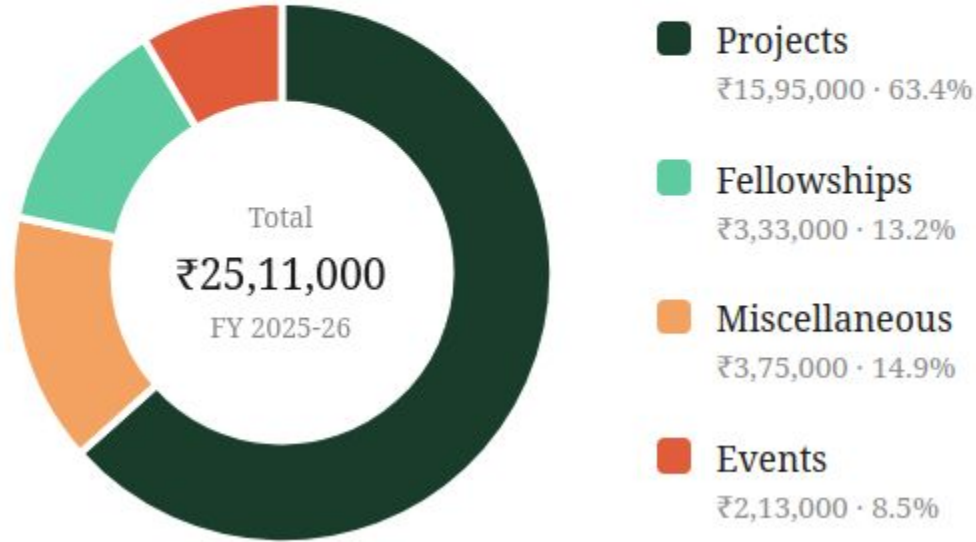
Frappe



and more joining in May 2026..

Grants Allotment

FY 2025-26

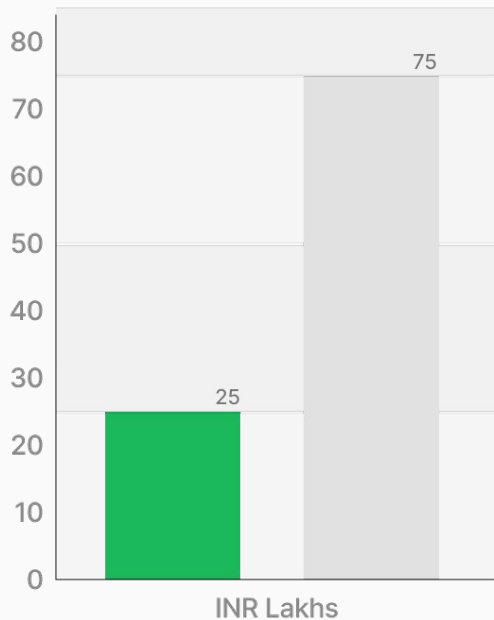


fossunited.org/blog/grants/2025-grants-recap

2026

The grants pool needs to triple.

India's FOSS ecosystem is growing faster than ever.



Project grants

New Project Grants

₹20L

Fellowships

Contributor fellowships, OSM work, Policy scholarships, Season of Commits

~₹20L

Event and other grants

Events, travel scholarships, research funding, etc.

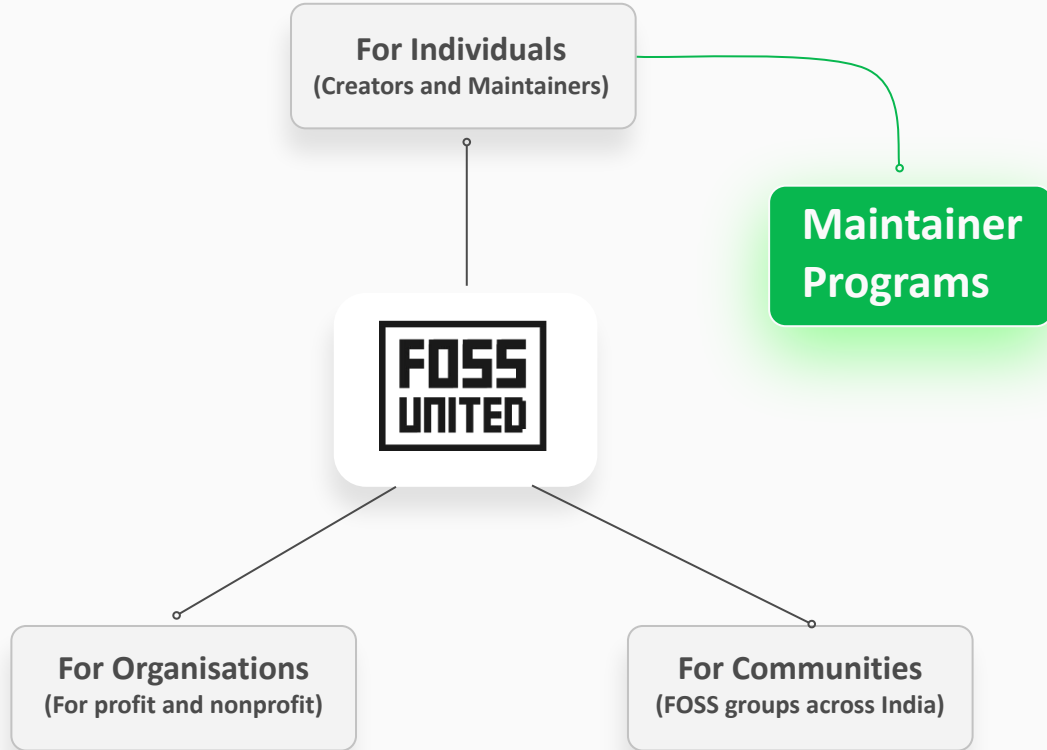
~₹15L

Operational Overheads

Salaries and other expenses

~₹20L

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Maintainer Programs

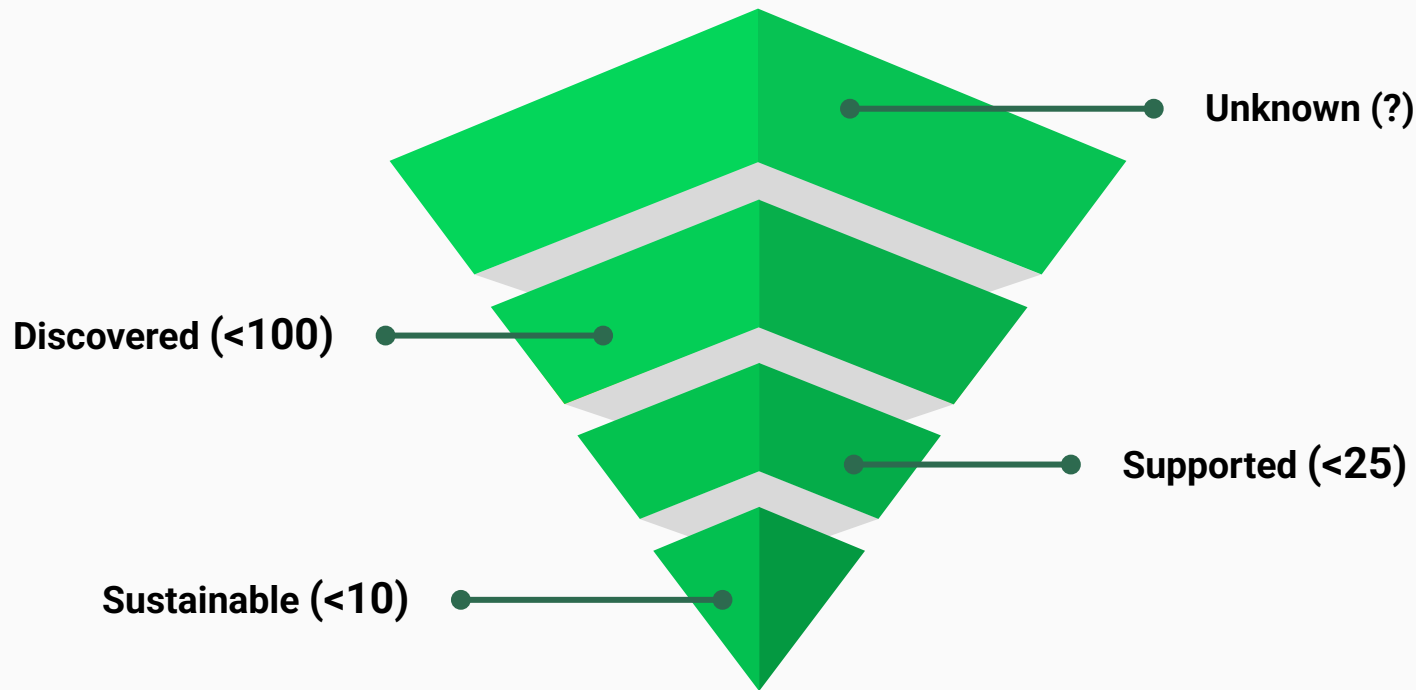
is an initiative to support Indian FOSS project maintainers across the breadth of their entire journey, from getting discovered to becoming sustainable.

Core premise (and why we are moving away from just “grants”)

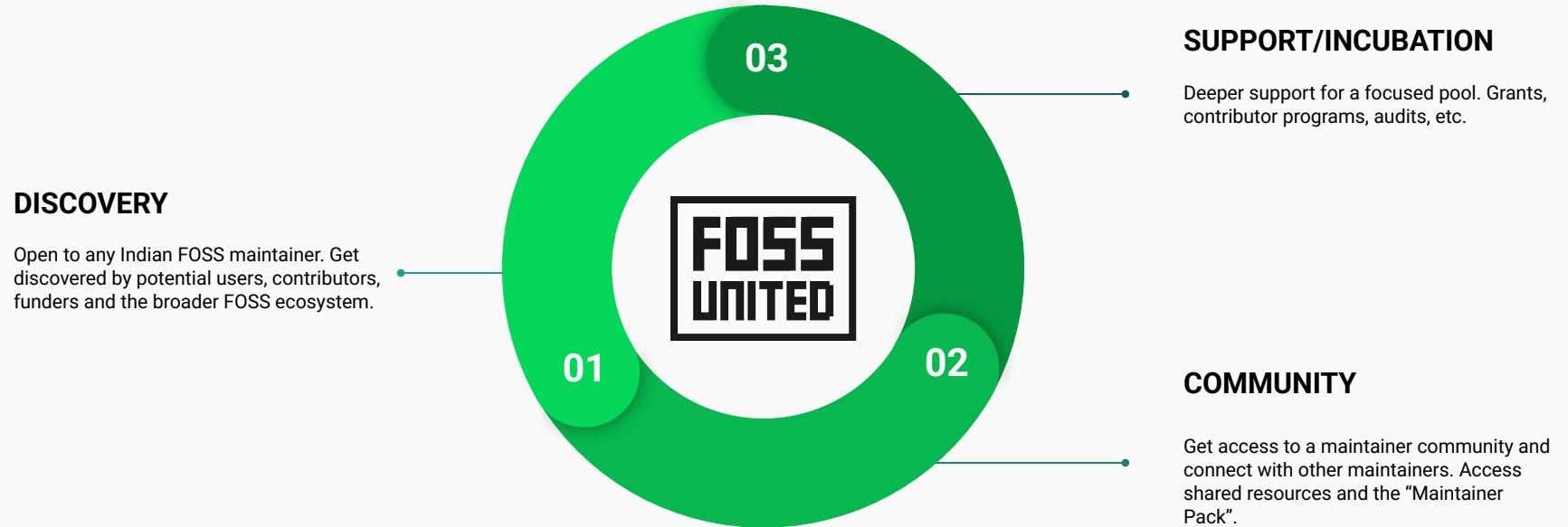
FOSS United should treat its relationship with a maintainer not as a one-time interaction but as a long-term commitment to the health and sustainability of their project, and their ability to keep working on it.

A maintainer/project goes through the following stages. The foundation's goal is to continue expanding this funnel.

01



The program operates through a 3 layer model, each layer building on the previous.



DISCOVERY

Getting Indian FOSS projects found

Open to any Indian FOSS maintainer



Forklore (forklore.in)

Forklore is a directory of Indian FOSS maintainers, and acts as the front door to everything.



Strategic advocacy and Evidence building

Campaigns like #MeetTheMaintainers, #IndiaRunsOnFOSS, Case Studies, Op-Eds and Media coverage



Events

Visibility at IndiaFOSS, FOSSHack, city events.



Lighthouses

“Lighthouses” are people who bring together and give direction to people from the digital commons ecosystem.



COMMUNITY

Peer group, resources and more

Maintainers in the discovery layer can opt-in to join the “Maintainer Community”.

COMMUNITY ACCESS

- Maintainer mailing list, discourse forum and other channels
- Trainings around security, accessibility, etc. technical advice
- Community calls and Maintainer events.
- Access to Grants Working Group, FOSS Awards and FLOSS/fund discussions

MAINTAINER PACK

- Cloud Credits
- Devtools and Software licenses
- Co-working spaces for Maintainers
- Travel scholarships, event tickets, presence at IndiaFOSS
- Workshops, and access to maintainer specific programs



SUPPORT

Deeper, focussed support for a narrow pool

This is where FOSS United invests significant time, effort, and resources in a project's growth. Deep integration in specific programs

FUNDS

- Project, event & fellowship grants
- Miscellaneous grants (eg. travel)
- Fundraising guidance (Applying for grants, and connects with VCs?)
- Demo Day

COMMUNITY BUILDING

- How to build a community around your project?
- [FOSSHack](#) Partner Projects
- Dedicated events, user studies
- Season of Commits, [IndiaFOSS](#)

INFRASTRUCTURE

- Sponsored security & a11y audits
- Hosting and infra support
- Hardware and cloud credits

ADOPTION

- Mostly a higher order effect
- Travel grants to national/intl events
- Connects to investors & press
- Other forms of exposure - clubs, talks



Discovery



Community



Incubation

MAINTAINER MAY

May is for Maintainers!



MAINTAINER MEETUPS

We are organising in person meetups for Maintainers in Delhi, Bangalore, Chennai, Hyderabad and more! Come meet your peers, discuss challenges and learnings, and show what you're building!



MAINTAINER PACK

The Maintainer Pack launches this May! We're partnering with organisations across the globe to provide resources and tools to Indian FOSS maintainers.

Contribute to the grants pool

Please reach out to us for more details at maintainers@fossunited.org

| Perks | Maintainer Tier (>10L)* | Contributor Tier (<5L)* |
|------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Logo on website | Large | Small |
| General Promotions | ✓ | ✓ |
| Maintainer Summit | ✓ | ✓ |
| IndiaFOSS 2026* | Maintainer Tier | Contributor Tier |
| Season Of Commits 2026 | ✓ | ✗ |
| FOSSHack 2027 | ✓ | ✗ |

* The Maintainer tier starts at 5L for FOSS Companies.

* Besides financial support, in-kind contributions to the Maintainer Pack also make you eligible for the Contributor Tier.

* Check out the IndiaFOSS 2026 [sponsorship deck](#) for more details

How to partner with us

Amongst other benefits, all Maintainer Programs contributors will be acknowledged as IndiaFOSS 2026 sponsors

FUND

Grow the Grants Pool

Directly fund Indian FOSS maintainers.
Co-sponsor specific programs (Season of Commits, Maintainer Travel Scholarships).

MAINTAINERS

ENABLE

Contribute to the Maintainer Pack

Help us with cloud credits, tool licenses, hardware, security expertise or even co-working space at your office! Your contribution lands directly with Indian FOSS maintainers who need it .

CONTRIBUTORS

AMPLIFY

Open Your Platform

Sign the FOSS Pledge. List open roles on our jobs board. Offer mentors for Season of Commits. Sponsor our other programs and activities!

**A lot more Indians will be
creating FOSS this decade.**

**We want to help them navigate and sustain
their journeys**

FOSS United Foundation is the only organization in India working on this kind of support for FOSS maintainers at scale.

GET IN TOUCH

maintainers@fossunited.org

READ THE THESIS

fossunited.org/maintainer-programs/thesis

GRANTS THESIS

fossunited.org/grants/thesis