

Rohini Nilekani to step down as Arghyam Foundation chief

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Rohini Nilekani, Sunita Nadhamuni

BENGALURU: After 20 years, philanthropist [Rohini Nilekani](#) will step down as chairperson of Arghyam Foundation. [Sunita](#) Nadhamuni will take over in October. Rohini set up the foundation in 2001 and since 2005, has been focusing on water-related issues including groundwater, water quality and sanitation, in rural and urban areas across the country.

Rohini told TOI she was retiring to pave the way for a new leadership. "I have been planning retirement for a while

because 20 years is really a good time to move on from an institution. I firmly believe all institutions need fresh thinking and a new leadership every once in a while. From October 1, I will walk away from the board, as I did before from Akshara Foundation and Pratham Books (which I cofounded, chaired and funded from 2004 till 2014)."

Arghyam, which means 'offering' in Sanskrit, was set up after Rohini sold shares of [Infosys](#). She had put all the money and subsequently added more; her personal endowment currently is Rs 150 crore.

On her decision to retire when she could have chosen to continue, Rohini said: "I have no regrets even though this is my very personal foundation which has been exclusively funded by me. After all, once the money goes into a trust, it is money meant for public good, right? The team under the new chair, Sunita Nadhamuni, will take Arghyam to new heights of impact, I have no doubt about that. I will miss working with my colleagues, but this is the right decision, I am sure of that. In some sense, after having worked hard for 20 years and hopefully after having made some positive contribution to the water sector, it is only now, with this transition, that I actually can complete my "Arghyam!"

Sunita, trustee, was the first CEO of Arghyam. She is also the head of Dell Giving and [Social Innovation](#).

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