



GivingPi
India Family Philanthropy Network

Dear GivingPi Member,

As April begins, it often marks the start of a new cycle of planning and reflection for many philanthropic families, foundations, and family offices. It is a moment to revisit priorities, strengthen commitments, and think carefully about how giving can continue to create meaningful and lasting change.

Across India's philanthropic landscape, there is growing recognition that lasting impact requires not just resources, but also thoughtful engagement, collaboration, and spaces for shared learning. As more families deepen their philanthropic journeys, opportunities to exchange ideas, learn from peers, and reflect on what is working, are becoming increasingly important.

At GivingPi, we remain committed to creating these spaces for dialogue and exchange. Over the coming months, we will continue working closely with our Members to convene conversations, surface insights, and strengthen the collective voice of family philanthropy in India.

As part of these ongoing dialogues, the latest season of our podcast, 'Catalyzing Change', a series that runs on the Unusual Suspects podcast, by Moneycontrol in collaboration with GivingPi is now LIVE. Season 5 brings together a series of conversations with members of the Indian diaspora who are contributing to solutions for complex social challenges, drawing on global perspectives, cross-border networks, and new approaches to philanthropy and social investment. The first episode with GivingPi Founders Circle Member, Gurpreet Sunny Singh, is now LIVE. To listen to it, click [here](#).

In addition to this, this edition also features member updates, opportunities, and insights from across the sector, along with thought leadership shaping the evolving landscape of philanthropy.

With gratitude,
Team GivingPi

Global Pulse

Opportunity & Insights in Philanthropy

This section curates timely opportunities, events, and thought leadership shaping philanthropy and the social sector globally. Whether you're a funder, nonprofit leader, or ecosystem builder - here's where you'll find tools, conversations, and collaborations worth exploring.

Why Climate Resilience Must be Built with Communities, Not for Them

This report by Rohini Nilekani Philanthropies and Dalberg examines why climate resilience in India must shift from reactive disaster response to proactive, community-led preparedness, especially as extreme weather events become an increasingly frequent reality. It highlights how philanthropy can play a catalytic role by investing in five forms of capital: physical, financial, human, social, and natural, that strengthen communities' abilities to anticipate, adapt to, and recover from climate shocks. The report underscores that long-term philanthropic investments in resilience can help move the sector beyond crisis response toward more sustainable and locally grounded climate solutions. To read the full report, click [here](#).

The Case for Starting Early, and Giving Differently

This episode of Give It a Go, a podcast series by EdelGive Foundation and Hurun India, hosted by Naghma Mulla, features a conversation with GivingPi Members Govind Iyer and Amita Chauhan on how engaged philanthropy can drive deeper, more meaningful impact. Drawing on their experiences with Social Venture Partners India, they reflect on the importance of starting early in one's philanthropic journey, aligning giving with purpose, and moving beyond traditional charity toward more participatory forms of giving. The discussion also explores gender dynamics in philanthropy and the challenges of navigating generational conversations around wealth and responsibility. Together, the episode offers a candid look at how thoughtful, engaged giving can reshape both personal growth and the broader culture of philanthropy. To listen to the podcast, click [here](#).

Beyond the Market Mirage: Philanthropy Must Democratize Finance or Risk Deepening a Legitimacy Crisis

This piece examines the widening gap between citizens' support for democracy and their declining trust in the institutions meant to deliver it. As private finance and philanthropy increasingly shape development flows, many of these decisions operate without democratic oversight or public accountability. This article argues that philanthropy now faces a pivotal test: whether to simply innovate around weak institutions or help rebuild the public systems that make fiscal governance transparent and participatory. Its central insight is that real accountability requires investing not just in transparency, but in the civic and institutional ecosystems that turn public finance into democratic power. Read the article [here](#).

Powered by GivingPi What We're Unlocking

Where partnerships are sparked, networks deepen, and bold conversations take shape



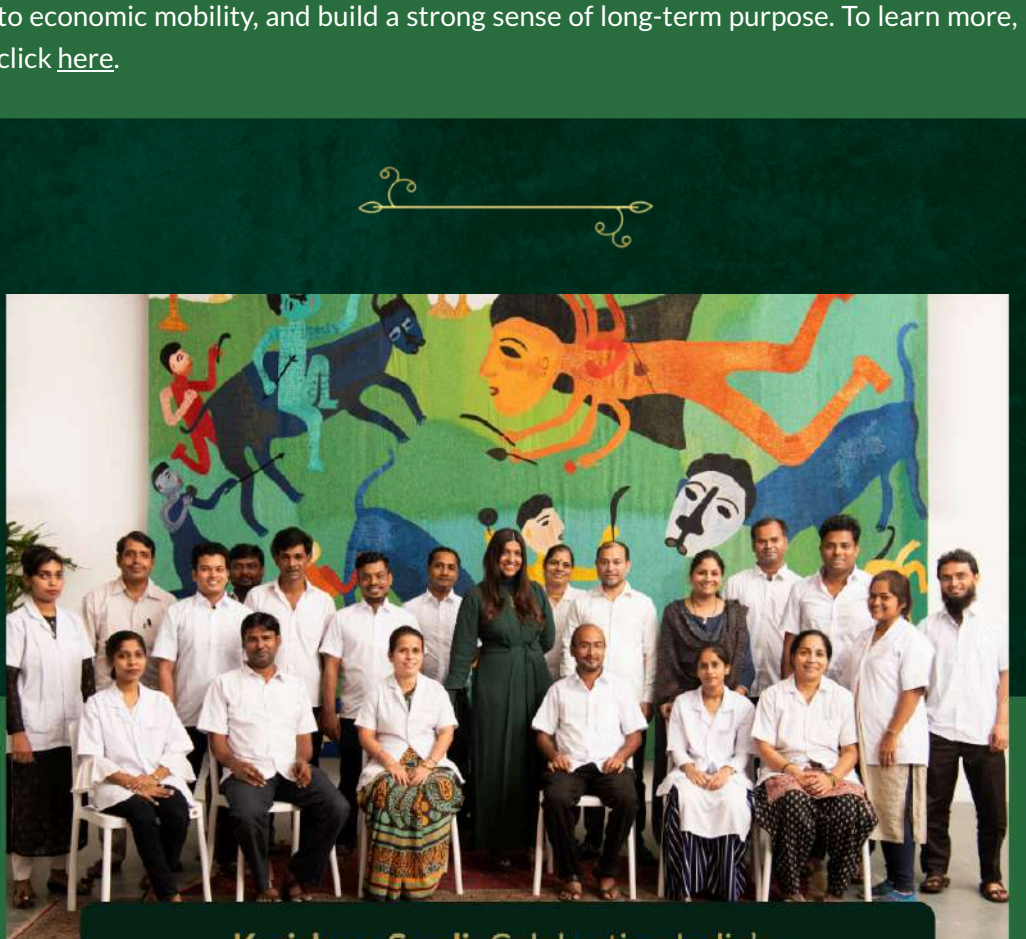
Season 5 of 'Unusual Suspects' is LIVE!

How are leaders across the Indian diaspora shaping new approaches to philanthropy and social impact? Season 5 of Catalyzing Change, a series on the Unusual Suspects podcast by Moneycontrol in collaboration with GivingPi, explores how philanthropic leaders across the diaspora are addressing complex social challenges through cross-border networks, sectoral expertise, and global perspectives.

Featuring conversations with Founders' Circle Members Gurpreet Sunny Singh and Rashi Mehta, and GivingPi Members Ramesh Srinivasan, Raj and Anna Asava, Shruti Deorah, and more, the season examines how diaspora philanthropy is bridging knowledge and practice across areas such as public health, education, technology access and livelihoods while advancing new models of social investment. Across the series, leaders reflect on themes such as leadership as a philanthropic strategy, philanthropy as inheritance across generations, and systems-oriented approaches that move beyond single-cause giving to address interconnected challenges.

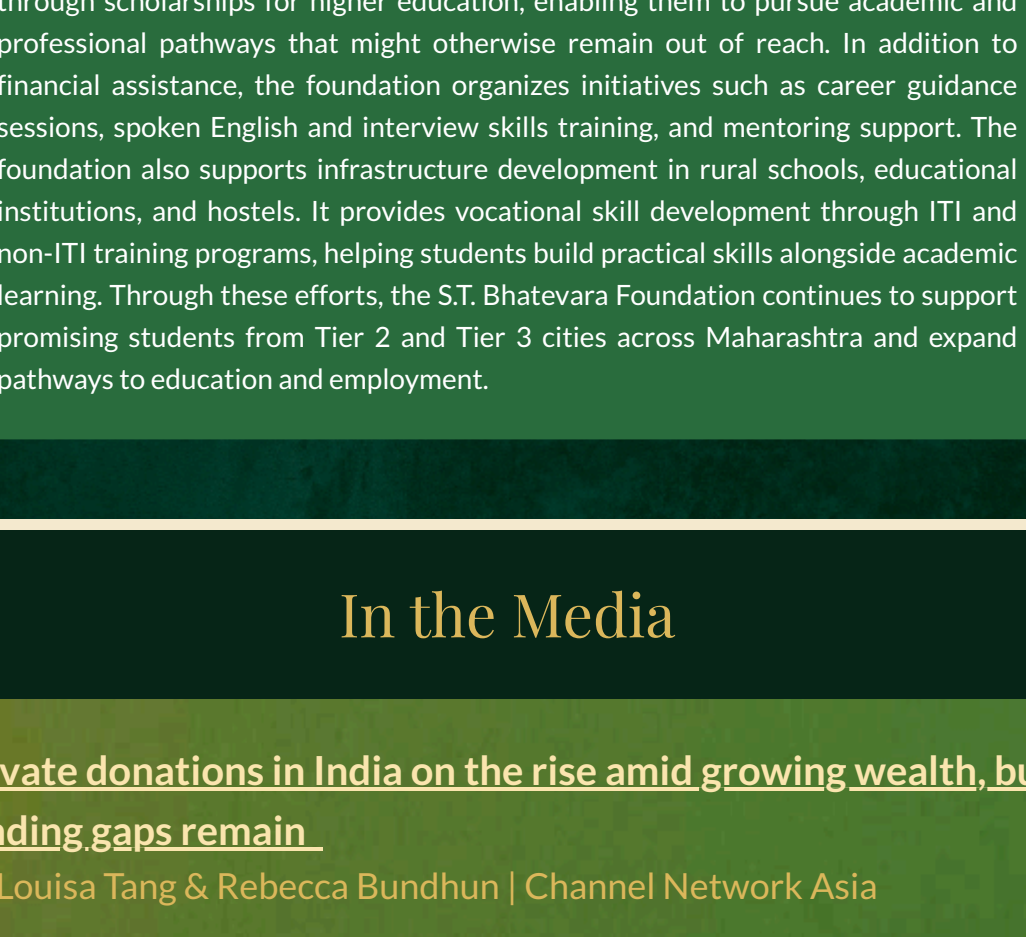
Episode 1 features Gurpreet Sunny Singh, who reflects on why philanthropy must begin with a simple but powerful belief: that everyone deserves basic conditions of dignity - food on the table, a roof overhead, and access to education. He also makes a compelling case for why philanthropy cannot remain the responsibility of governments alone but must be embraced by those with the means to expand opportunity and security for others. To listen to the episode, click [here](#).

Updates from our Community



Rati Forbes: Inspiring the Next Generation of Young Girls

GivingPi Member Rati Forbes, Member of the Board of Advisors at iTeach Schools, supports efforts to expand access to quality education for students from underserved communities. Through a public-private partnership with the Navi Mumbai Municipal Corporation, iTeach Schools manages three SSC English medium schools, providing trained teaching staff, structured academic systems, and student support to strengthen learning outcomes. The model is funded through a partnership in which the government contributes 60 percent and philanthropic partners contribute 40 percent, enabling the organization to deliver high-quality education within the public school system. Alongside academic learning, iTeach Schools also create opportunities that build confidence and expand aspirations. Recently, students from one of the schools met members of the RCB Women's cricket team through Himalaya Face Care's Wonder Women initiative, following months of cricket training facilitated by The Right Pitch. The interaction included scholarships of up to ₹50,000 and recognized the students' efforts, reflecting iTeach Schools' broader commitment to supporting both learning and aspiration amongst students. To learn more, click [here](#).



Nitasha Thapar: Expanding Public Access to Art and Culture

GivingPi Member Nitasha Thapar, Co-Founder of TRI Art & Culture, is working to expand access to contemporary art by bringing together artists, communities, and audiences through inclusive cultural platforms. Founded by siblings Nitasha and Varun Thapar, TRI operates at the intersection of art, culture, and public engagement, with a strong focus on ensuring that artistic spaces remain accessible, particularly to students and young audiences. This commitment is reflected in TRI's current Spring Student exhibition, "Khadi, a Canvas", presented in collaboration with the Abheraj Baldota Foundation and curated by textile revivalist Lavina Baldota. The exhibition stems from a grassroots initiative where women from non-weaver communities were trained in traditional weaving, enabling entire villages to produce the khadi saris now on display. By linking craft revival with community livelihoods and cultural preservation, the initiative demonstrates how heritage practices can remain vibrant, relevant, and economically empowering in today's cultural landscape.



Anupama and Sumana Dalmia: Reimagining Teacher Professional Development in India

GivingPi Members Anupama Dalmia, Founder of the Seekho Sikhao Foundation, and Sumana Dalmia, Program Manager, recently anchored the launch of the Landscape Report on In-Service Teacher Professional Development (TPD) in India, developed in partnership with Sattva Consulting and the India Education Collective. Drawing on primary research across six states, the study examines the persistent gap between teacher training programs and classroom practice. It highlights the need for a systemic shift toward teacher ownership and professional agency, stronger peer-learning networks, and feedback mechanisms that better connect training with the realities of classrooms. By mapping the current landscape of in-service teacher development and identifying opportunities for reform, the report aims to strengthen the broader teacher education ecosystem while supporting more effective and responsive professional learning models for educators across the country. This launch marks the beginning of a collective effort among CSOs to move beyond individual mandates and toward a shared strategy. It is a call for the ecosystem to come together, ensuring the insights from the ground truly reshape how we support our teachers. To read the report, click [here](#).

Mekin Maheshwari: Embedding Entrepreneurial Mindsets in Government Classrooms

GivingPi Member Mekin Maheshwari, Founder and CEO of Udhyan Learning Foundation, continues to advance efforts to integrate entrepreneurial learning within government school systems across India through the Tejasvi program in Madhya Pradesh. The program encourages students to identify challenges in their communities, develop solutions, and prototype ideas within the classroom. Implemented in partnership with the state government, Tejasvi aims to move beyond traditional rote learning by building problem-solving skills, creativity, and confidence among students. By the 2025-26 academic year, the program had reached over 2.2 lakh students across 1,274 schools. More than 6,000 teachers have been trained to facilitate entrepreneurial learning in their classrooms. Students participating in the program receive mentorship and seed support to develop early-stage prototypes. As part of this effort, ₹4.67 crore in seed funding has supported student-led ideas and ventures emerging from classrooms across the state. The foundation's Udhyan Shiksha initiative has reached over 4.7 million students across more than 15,000 government schools, supported by 55,000 educators and almost a million students have received grants of over Rs. 223 crores from state governments. Through these efforts, the organization is helping young people build the skills, confidence, and agency needed to navigate an evolving economic landscape. For more information, click [here](#).

Luis Miranda: Advancing Public Sanitation Rights through CORO India's 'Right to Pee' Movement

GivingPi Member Luis Miranda, President of the Board of Trustees at CORO India, has been working since 2011 to improve public sanitation through the 'Right to Pee' movement, which has been working since 2011 to improve public sanitation access across Mumbai. Rooted in community mobilization, the initiative advocates for equitable and affordable sanitation infrastructure, particularly for underserved communities who rely on shared public toilets. When rising electricity costs threatened the sustainability of community-managed sanitation facilities, CORO worked alongside residents of the community to advocate systemic change. Through sustained engagement and collective action, the campaign successfully pushed for a reduction in the commercial electricity tariff, easing the operational burden on public toilet facilities. This change has significant implications for affordability and continued access to sanitation for thousands of urban residents. A recently released documentary captures the journey of persistence, solidarity, and people-led advocacy behind the movement. To learn more, click [here](#).

Sejal Desai and Shankar Iyer: Enabling School-to-Work Pathways for Young People

GivingPi Members Sejal Desai and Shankar Iyer are advancing efforts through the Akanksha Education Fund (AEF) to support underserved youth as they transition from school to meaningful work. AEF's School-to-Work (S2W) initiative focuses on navigating the structural barriers that often prevent students from successfully navigating this critical phase. Across India, nearly 33% of youth aged 15-29 are classified as not in employment, education, or training (NEET), highlighting the urgent need for coordinated interventions that bridge the gap between education and employment. AEF's approach centers on strengthening schools as the unit of change while enabling collaboration between educators, nonprofits, employers, and funders. By supporting students through academic and skills development, exposure to the world of work, mentorship, and financial assistance, the initiative aims to create sustained pathways from education to stable livelihoods. Through this ecosystem approach, AEF aims to unlock opportunities for over one million young people, equipping them with the agency to navigate their choices, pursue pathways to economic mobility, and build a strong sense of long-term purpose. To learn more, click [here](#).

Karishma Swali: Celebrating India's Living Craft Traditions

GivingPi Member Karishma Swali, Creative Director of Chanakya International and Founder & Chairman of Chanakya School of Craft, recently presented the inaugural edition of The Swali Craft Prize in partnership with India Art Fair, with recipient Natasha Preenja's (Princess Pea) winning work, The Lotus Headed. Karishma Swali has been a leading voice in the preservation and revival of India's intangible artisanal heritage. The Swali Craft Prize continues this commitment by recognizing contemporary makers whose work bridges tradition and artistic innovation, offering a platform to renew the cultural and conceptual possibilities of handicraft. From over 100 entries, the Prize's international jury selected Preenja for a practice defined by conceptual depth, technical mastery, and a profound engagement with cultural heritage. Advocating for a more expansive view of creative practice and challenging the conventional hierarchies between craft and fine art, the Prize invites a renewed understanding of craft today - as a vital, contemporary force within cultural discourse. To learn more, click [here](#).

Rosy Bhatevara: Expanding Educational Opportunities through the S.T. Bhatevara Foundation

GivingPi Member Rosy Bhatevara, Managing Trustee of the S.T. Bhatevara Foundation, continues to advance the foundation's mission of expanding access to education for deserving students. The foundation supports nearly 180 students through scholarships for higher education, enabling them to pursue academic and professional pathways that might otherwise remain out of reach. In addition to financial assistance, the foundation organizes initiatives such as career guidance sessions, spoken English and interview skills training, and mentoring support. The foundation also supports infrastructure development in rural schools, educational institutions, and hostels. It provides vocational skill development through ITI and non-ITI training programs, helping students build practical skills alongside academic learning. Through these efforts, the S.T. Bhatevara Foundation continues to support promising students from Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities across Maharashtra and expand pathways to education and employment.

In the Media

Private donations in India on the rise amid growing wealth, but funding gaps remain

By Louisa Tang & Rebecca Bundhun | Channel Network Asia

This piece highlights the steady rise of private giving in India, which reached about ₹1.4 trillion in 2025 and is projected to keep growing, according to the India Philanthropy Report by Bain & Company and Dsara. It underscores the growing role philanthropists can play in helping address India's development challenges as wealth and giving continue to expand.

The giving economy in India: Why India's billions in giving remain off the books

By Samreen Wani | Forbes India

This piece analyzes how nearly half of individual giving in India goes to religious organizations, while only about 10 percent flows through formal charitable channels, according to the How India Gives Report by Ashoka University. The findings highlight a vast culture of everyday giving that remains largely informal and outside formal philanthropic systems.

Information as civic infrastructure - and how philanthropy can support the ecosystem

By Nisha Dhawan | India Development Review

This article explores the important role that strong information ecosystems play in supporting effective philanthropy. It highlights how investments in journalism, research, and open data can strengthen public accountability and create conditions for long-term progress across areas such as climate, governance, and public health.

Reach out to us



Amplify

We would love to amplify your philanthropic efforts with the GivingPi community.

Please share relevant updates with us on communications@givingpi.org



Concierge

If you have a query, need any support with your philanthropic journey, or would simply like to have a conversation, reach out to us on connect@givingpi.org

For more information on the network, membership or philanthropy-focused offerings, visit

www.givingpi.org

