



GivingPi
India Family Philanthropy Network

Dear GivingPi Member,

September brings a particularly rich set of conversations into focus for Indian philanthropy. Held on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly, the India Philanthropy Forum New York City 2026 (IPF NYC) will convene conversations on the future architecture of Indian philanthropy and its role in shaping more equitable development.

Rooted in this year's theme, "Impact Futures by Design: A New Architecture for India's Philanthropy," the Forum will explore what it will take to build the infrastructure for greater collaboration, strengthen peer networks and collective action, connect global capital with community leadership, and engage the next generation as co-architects of social change. Taking place at a moment when global leaders are gathered in New York, IPF NYC 2026 also creates an important opportunity to connect diaspora philanthropy with some of the world's most pressing development conversations.

Closer to home, this edition offers a glimpse into the breadth of that landscape. Across education, climate-resilient livelihoods, conservation, women's entrepreneurship, healthcare, and social inclusion, our members are supporting very different pathways towards a stronger and more equitable India.

Together, these stories reflect a philanthropic landscape that is becoming more diverse in both its priorities and its approaches, while remaining grounded in the communities and contexts it seeks to serve.

In this edition, you'll find updates from our members, insights from across the philanthropic ecosystem, and opportunities to connect and engage with the conversations shaping philanthropy.

With gratitude,
Team GivingPi

Global Pulse

Opportunities & Insights in Philanthropy

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

Mumbai Ekatra: Going Green | Season 5

Kshirsagar Apte Foundation, Co-founded by GivingPi Member, Swati Apte, has opened applications for the Foundation's fifth season of Mumbai Ekatra, supporting citizen-led projects tackling urban environmental challenges. This year's Going Green theme invites community groups and organizations to develop practical solutions across waste, water, renewable energy, and public spaces, with selected teams receiving grants to bring their ideas to life. Applications are open until 1st October 2026. To learn more or apply, click [here](#).

There Cannot Be Equitable Grantmaking Without Gender Data

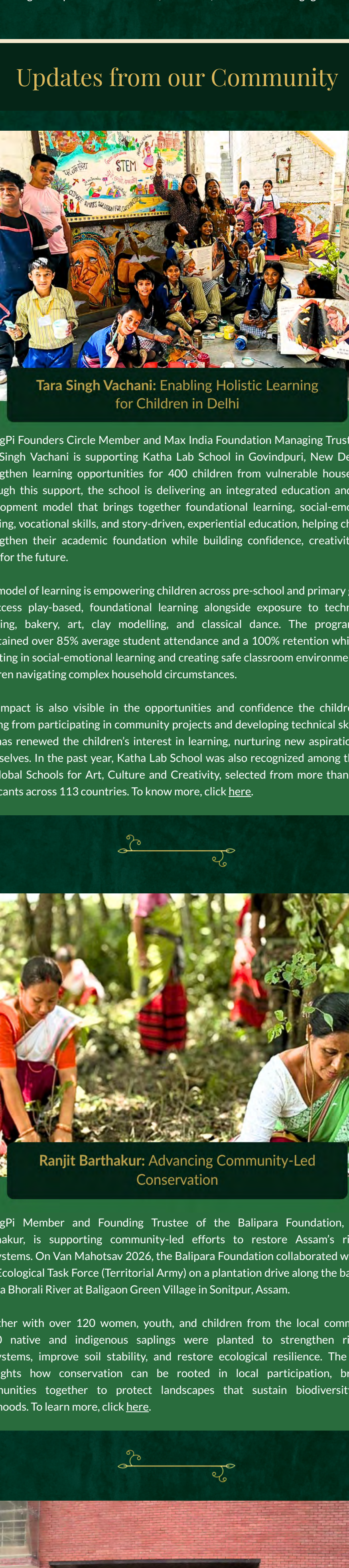
This piece in Alliance Magazine makes the case that gender-disaggregated data is essential for philanthropy seeking to advance equity. Drawing on examples from Côte d'Ivoire, Tonga, and Mexico, it shows how better gender data can reveal hidden disparities and help funders and governments direct resources toward more responsive solutions. To learn more, click [here](#).

How Philanthropy Can Collaborate with Government: Perspectives and Resources from India

This report by The Bridgespan Group explores how philanthropy can work more effectively with the government to achieve population-level impact. Drawing on lessons from India, it offers practical insights on building trust, aligning incentives, and strengthening cross-sector partnerships to drive lasting systems change. To read the report, click [here](#).

Powered by GivingPi What We're Unlocking

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



The Network Effect

Real stories. Real shifts, enabled by GivingPi.

The Network Effect

Sometimes, a shift in philanthropy begins with something small: a trusted recommendation, a new connection, a different perspective, or a conversation that opens up an unexpected possibility.

Over time, those moments can shape where members give, who they collaborate with, the causes they support and the role they choose to play.

Launching tomorrow, **The Network Effect** brings those shifts into focus.

Through the journeys of Amit and Ruchi Varshneya, Anupama Dalmia, Deepak Chopra, Fiona and Luis Miranda, Jayanta Roy, Nalini Saligram, Oliver Bangera, Rashi Mehta and Vivek Jain, the campaign showcases the tangible ways GivingPi has influenced and enabled members' philanthropy - from trusted NGO recommendations and new directions in giving to peer connections, collaborations and opportunities to contribute beyond capital. The Network Effect is a closer look at the role GivingPi has played in enabling those shifts - and the impact that follows.

The strongest platforms do more than connect people. They change what people do next.

Stay tuned to GivingPi on LinkedIn and Instagram as we begin sharing these stories tomorrow.



Funding Her Future: What Does It Take to Meaningfully Support Progress for Women and Girls?

India has made important gains for women and girls across education, health, and participation in public life. Yet the organizations working closest to these communities continue to face uneven and fragmented funding. This raises a critical question for philanthropy: how can capital better support the organizations and approaches that enable lasting progress?

Dasra's *Funding Her Future* Philanthropy Masterclass brought this question into focus, drawing on emerging research and perspectives from practitioners and funders. GivingPi Member and Founder of KARM for Young Indian Women, Radhika Bharat Ram, joined Reshma Anand, Regional Director at Ford Foundation, and Safeena Husain, Founder of Educate Girls, for a conversation moderated by Deval Sanghavi, Co-founder and Partner at Dasra.

The discussion highlighted that investing in women and girls can shape outcomes across generations, while a gender lens can strengthen philanthropy across education, health, livelihoods, and climate. The speakers also emphasized that access alone isn't sufficient: lasting progress requires strengthening agency, voice, leadership, and decision-making.

For philanthropy, the conversation reinforced the value of patient, flexible, multi-year capital that enables organizations to listen, adapt, address root causes, and build solutions alongside communities. The Masterclass offered a timely reflection on not just investing more in women and girls but investing differently to enable deeper and more sustained change.



Salon Series: Building Diaspora Connections for Giving to India

GivingPi Member Taraknath Woddi recently hosted an intimate dinner at his Seattle residence, bringing together families for an evening of conversation on diaspora philanthropy and its potential to contribute to India's development. The gathering explored how families in the diaspora can engage more meaningfully with India's philanthropic ecosystem, while also building stronger connections within their local community.

The evening began with a fireside conversation between Tarak and cricketer and philanthropist Sunil Gavaskar, followed by an introduction to GivingPi and its approach to supporting personal philanthropy. An open exchange over dinner gave participating families the opportunity to reflect on the growing interest in giving to India, and on the role trusted networks can play in helping families navigate and deepen their philanthropic journeys.

We are grateful to GivingPi Member Taraknath Woddi for hosting the evening and creating a warm and thoughtful space for connection, reflection, and continued engagement.

Updates from our Community



Tara Singh Vachani: Enabling Holistic Learning for Children in Delhi

GivingPi Founders Circle Member and Max India Foundation Managing Trustee Ms Tara Singh Vachani is supporting Katha Lab School in Govindpuri, New Delhi, to strengthen learning opportunities for 400 children from vulnerable households. Through this support, the school is delivering an integrated education and child development model that brings together foundational learning, social-emotional learning, vocational skills, and story-driven, experiential education, helping children strengthen their academic foundation while building confidence, creativity, and skills for the future.

This model of learning is empowering children across pre-school and primary grades to access play-based, foundational learning alongside exposure to technology, tailoring, bakery, art, clay modelling, and classical dance. The program has maintained over 500 average student attendance and a 100% retention while also investing in social-emotional learning and creating safe classroom environments for children navigating complex household circumstances.

The impact is also visible in the opportunities and confidence the children are gaining from participating in community projects and developing technical skills. All this has renewed the children's interest in learning, nurturing new aspirations for themselves. In the past year, Katha Lab School was also recognized among the Top 50 Global Schools for Art, Culture and Creativity, selected from more than 3,000 applicants across 113 countries. To know more, click [here](#).



Ranjit Barthakur: Advancing Community-Led Conservation

GivingPi Member and Founding Trustee of the Balipara Foundation, Ranjit Barthakur, is supporting community-led efforts to restore Assam's riverine ecosystems. On Van Mahotsav 2026, the Balipara Foundation collaborates with the 134 Ecological Task Force (Territorial Army) on a plantation drive along the banks of the Jia Bhorali River at Baligaon Green Village in Sonitpur, Assam.

Together with over 120 women, youth, and children from the local community, 2,000 native and indigenous saplings were planted to strengthen riverine ecosystems, improve soil stability, and restore ecological resilience. The effort highlights how conservation can be rooted in local participation, bringing communities together to protect landscapes that sustain biodiversity and livelihoods. To learn more, click [here](#).

Sunaina Murthy: Investing in the Next Generation of Engineers and Architects

GivingPi Member and Trustee of the Blue Star Foundation, Sunaina Murthy, is supporting aspiring engineers and architects through the Foundation's flagship Mohan T. Advani Centennial Scholarship Programme. Designed for meritorious students from underserved backgrounds, the initiative combines financial support with technical training, mentoring, and career guidance to help scholars build pathways to higher education and employment. Open to first- and second-year engineering and architecture students across select institutions in India, the program also provides industry interactions and exposure visits to strengthen long-term academic and professional outcomes. Today, it supports a growing community of over 500 scholars, while building a strong alumni network contributing across industries and communities. By investing in talent early, the Foundation is helping create pathways for the next generation of engineers and architects. To learn more, click [here](#).

Rekha Koita: Advancing Climate-Resilient Farming Across Maharashtra

GivingPi Member and Co-founder of Koita Foundation, Rekha Koita, is supporting the expansion of Paani Foundation's 2026 Satyanam Jayate Farmer Cup, a statewide initiative helping farmer groups adopt sustainable practices, reduce input costs, and build climate resilience. As the Farmer Cup expands from 46 to 351 talukas in Maharashtra, the Koita Foundation has partnered with Paani Foundation to develop its digital infrastructure through two complementary tools: the Smart Sheti App, which provides farmers with crop-specific guidance, timely reminders, and actionable recommendations; and the Team Paani Portal, which supports real-time monitoring, field operations, and data-driven decision-making.

Together, these tools have already onboarded 350,000+ farmers and nearly 26,000 farmer groups, including 15,000+ women-led groups, supporting more profitable and climate-resilient farming practices at scale. To learn more, click [here](#).

Shaifalika Panda: Supporting Women Entrepreneurs to Build Sustainable Businesses

GivingPi Member and Founder of Bansidhar & Ila Panda Foundation (BIPF), Shaifalika Panda, is supporting early stage women entrepreneurs through its latest program, the IMFA Sakhi Seed Fund, which provides ₹5 lakh in non-collateral, debt-free grant support alongside structured business mentorship. This initiative is in partnership with CNBC-TV18 Future Female Forward.

Built around four pillars: Capital, Capability, Credibility, and Connectivity, the initiative aims to move beyond livelihood support towards enterprise acceleration, helping women build sustainable and investment-ready businesses. Selected entrepreneurs will receive tailored mentorship from Xavier Institute of Management (XIM) University across business formalization, financial management, market access, technology adoption, and long-term sustainability.

The advisory committee brings together Ajaita Shah, Founder & CEO of Frontier Markets; Chetna Gala Sinha, Founder of Mann Deshi Foundation; Neha Juneja, Co-Founder & CEO of IndiaP2P; Shaifalika Panda, Founder & CEO of the Bansidhar & Ila Panda Foundation; and Shereen Bhan, Managing Editor of CNBC-TV18. The initiative has already received applications from women entrepreneurs across 12 states. Following a rigorous screening and assessment process, the final awardees will be announced in November 2026. To learn more, click [here](#).

Shivani Narang: Advancing Holistic Support for Women and Communities

GivingPi Member and Hon. President of the Maharashtra State Women's Council (MSWC), Shivani Narang, is supporting an organization that has worked across Mumbai for 106 years, responding to the needs of women, children, senior citizens, and persons with disabilities through more than 10 projects and initiatives.

Today, MSWC's work spans education and vocational training through the Abhilasha Center in Dharavi; residential support for women in social distress through Bapnu Ghar and Asha Sadan; foster care for children through its Foster Care program; and support for elderly women through Lotus Home. Its Savera Center works with persons with disabilities, while the Worli Library promotes access to learning and knowledge.

Together, these initiatives have impacted 150,000+ people, reflecting MSWC's long-standing commitment to social inclusion and support for communities in need. To learn more, click [here](#).

Shruti Deorah: Expanding Awareness and Access for Organ Donation

GivingPi Member Shruti Deorah is supporting the work of Live Beyond Life Foundation, to raise awareness about organ donation across Maharashtra and encourage more people to pledge their organs after death. The Foundation works to support patients and families awaiting transplants, promote organ health, and sponsor cadaver transplants for those unable to afford them.

With 15,000+ volunteers, 25+ successful campaigns, and 500+ yearly donors, Live Beyond Life is building greater awareness around the potential of organ donation. A single donor can help up to eight people through the donation of eyes, skin, and other vital organs. The Foundation also helps individuals create a Living Will to formally record their pledge.

By making organ donation more understood and accessible, the Foundation is working to expand the pool of donors for patients waiting for sight-restoring, life-saving, and reconstructive transplants. To learn more, click [here](#).

In the Media

India's education system must stand by its teachers

Anupama Dalmia | Edex Live

GivingPi Member Anupama Dalmia, Founder-Director of Seekho Sikhao Foundation, in this article makes the case for strengthening the systems that enable teachers to learn continuously, collaborate, and adapt to their classrooms. The piece highlights how existing teacher-support platforms can move beyond compliance to become meaningful spaces for professional learning.

Why bigger isn't always better: Rethinking scale in India's non-profit sector

Deval Sanghavi & Ami Misra | The Week

This article draws on the India Nonprofit Report 2026 and challenges the sector's bias towards scale, while making the case for recognizing the distinct roles of grassroots, mid-sized, and large nonprofits. It also calls for philanthropy to value depth as a form of scale and invest in organizations through patient, flexible, and long-term funding.

How women and queer philanthropists are reshaping family giving in India

Aanshi Gupta, Ami Misra & Mahima Sharda | Alliance Magazine

Drawing on a Dasra report developed as part of Hivos' Walking the Talk consortium, this article explores how women and queer philanthropists are shaping more inclusive, flexible, and gender-responsive approaches to family giving in India.

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

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