AVIAN We.

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Catalyst

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Anand Vishwakarma

Executive Director, ChildFund India

What did he Say

"India's social impact ecosystem is at an important inflection point. Social sector funding and private philanthropy are growing, becoming more strategic, collaborative and better structured for scale, even as needs continue to outpace resources.

At the heart of this moment is the imperative to reach the last mile — to touch the lives of every child, adolescent, woman and community, and support their aspirations based on their needs.

If we are to make lives more sustainable and build real pathways to Viksit Bharat 2047, this will require deeper partnerships, patient capital and locally led action that leaves no one behind."

Special address

India's Heat Crisis Has a Fix

The Indian EXPRESS
JOURNALISM OF COURAGE

Why is a better data collection tool the need of the hour?

India's brutal 2026 summer isn't just a climate event, it's a warning that our tools to fight heat need a serious upgrade. The good news? Experts suggest that better data collection could change everything

Heat behaves differently every few kilometres. Our data collection needs to catch up through thermal satellites for real-time tracking, have denser ground stations to capture microclimatic variations and introduce geospatial vulnerability maps to overlay heat data with income levels and population density to precisely direct aid

India’s Clean Energy Future Gets a Global Boost

TOI

India and Netherlands Join Hands on Clean Energy

India and the Netherlands have formed a joint working group to fast-track clean energy growth covering renewable energy, green hydrogen, and energy transition technologies. This partnership could position India as a global green hydrogen hub bringing in European investment, creating high-skilled green jobs, and accelerating the country’s shift toward energy security and a cleaner, more sustainable future

Global Philanthropy is Enabling Rural Indian Start-Ups

THE HINDU

India's Rural Innovators Take the Stage at Philanthropy Asia Summit

Five Indian rural-focused startups, including Digivriddhi (DGV), showcased their technology-driven models at the Philanthropy Asia Summit in Singapore, spanning agriculture, renewable energy, and sustainable livelihoods. These startups are proof that India's most pressing rural challenges such as farmer incomes, financial access, and sustainable development are now finding solutions from within, and are attracting global philanthropic attention and investment.

Focus to expand from classroom access to learning outcomes

DD NEWS

While Schools Continue to Grow, Learning Needs to Catch Up

NITI Aayog released a landmark report assessing a decade of India's school education covering 14.71 lakh schools and 24.69 crore students, the world's largest school education network. The good news is that there are more girls in classrooms, better infrastructure, digital connectivity, and improved enrolment of SC/ST students signals real progress in access and inclusion. However, infrastructure is improving faster than learning. Foundational literacy, numeracy gaps, and unequal outcomes across regions and socioeconomic groups remain deep, persistent challenges. The report calls for a shift from just getting children into schools to ensuring they actually learn through stronger teacher training, AI-integrated classrooms, reformed pedagogy, early childhood education, and hyperlocal accountability frameworks with 125+ measurable indicators tracking real progress. With nearly 25 crore students in the system, even marginal improvements in learning outcomes could unlock an unprecedented human capital dividend

From Lab Breakthroughs to AI Powered Giving

FORTUNE INDIA

Gates Foundation and Wadhwani Foundation Join Hands to Power India's Future in Innovation

The Gates Foundation and Wadhwani Foundation have signed an MoU to support India's National Innovation Network backing 5 Centres of Excellence across top institutions like IITs and IISc, focused on health, nutrition, biotechnology, genomics, and medtech. Lab breakthroughs in health, nutrition, and medtech will now move faster from discovery to doorstep making life-changing solutions more affordable and accessible for millions across India. This partnership turns India's research talent into real-world impact, building a national pipeline of startups, patents, and scalable innovations that cement India's place as a global innovation powerhouse.

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AI is Transforming How Corporations Do Good

Indian companies are using AI to make CSR smarter at targeting vulnerable communities, tracking impact in real time, and driving digital skilling. Experts say that CSR is shifting from donation-driven charity to data-powered, outcome-focused social investment. For India's millions, this means faster, more precise, and more accountable solutions to real problems.

Philanthropy Meets Portfolio Thinking

Business Standard

Numbers Prove that India's Wealthy are Giving Smarter

India's philanthropists are no longer writing cheques, they're building giving portfolios. The number of donors contributing over ₹100 crore annually jumped from just 2 in 2018 to 18 in 2025, Naghma Mulla, CEO, EdelGive Foundation calls it a shift from charity to strategic capital deployment. When India's wealthy start treating social impact like an investment demanding measurable outcomes, funding grassroots organisations, and backing climate and culture alongside education and healthcare, it signals a maturing philanthropic ecosystem that could fundamentally reshape how India's deepest social challenges get solved

Story of Transformation

Jayashree Mali’s Story of Growth and Transformation

Jayashree Gorakh Mali, 47, a rural woman farmer from Ter village, Dharashiv district, Maharashtra was managing just 1.5 acres of land. She was confined to household work, no financial independence, low-yield chemical farming, and too scared to even step outside alone. The turning point was when she joined SURE (Sakhi Unique Resource Enterprise) in 2018 to learn organic farming, vermicomposting, and hydroponic fodder technology. Now after training, she earns ₹600/day from dairy alone, manages an entire farm, and is called “Madam” by women in her village. Jayashree’s story proves that when rural women get the right training and tools, they don’t just transform their farms but they transform their families, their communities, and themselves.

Word of the Month

Renewable Energy Corridors

Renewable energy corridors are dedicated transmission networks that carry clean energy such as solar and wind power from where it's generated to where it's needed. For example, The Green Energy Corridor (GEC) in India connects solar-rich states like Rajasthan and Gujarat to states like Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra through a dedicated high-voltage transmission network. As a result, A farmer in Bihar can use electricity powered by sunshine from Rajasthan without either state ever needing to burn coal to bridge the gap.

With India racing toward its 500 GW renewable energy target by 2030, these corridors are the critical infrastructure backbone that ensures power generated in a sunny Rajasthan or windy Tamil Nadu actually reaches homes and industries across the country without any obstacle