



FORUMS

📍 New Delhi

2025

IMPACT REPORT

NEW DELHI

20

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FOREWORD

KAMNA HAZRATI
FOUNDER, ANDPURPOSE

It is with immense gratitude and enthusiasm that I present this Impact Report from the inaugural AndPurpose Forum, New Delhi. Our core mission at AndPurpose is to enable change by supporting those who bring it, fostering collaboration among diverse stakeholders.

This Forum served as a vital platform for meaningful and relevant discussions. We explored themes from building a climate-conscious India and the profound impact of social entrepreneurship to the evolving landscape of CSR and impact finance.

We championed both non-profit & for-profit enterprises, integrating profitability with doing good for sustainability and wider reach.

Discussions highlighted community-driven change, the wisdom of vulnerable communities, and the pivotal role of youth in shaping our future. Our commitment to gender equity was reflected through equal participation. Using Art as a critical part of our conversations, our partners Slam out Loud & People Archive of Rural India (PARI) helped us communicate social change through their performances & art displays. As a carbon-neutral event, the Forum underscored our commitment to conscious action. With our partners ENEN Green and Grow Billion Trees we not only achieved carbon neutrality at the forum, but as a living gift also planted a jungle of 40 trees to thank our partners & speakers.

May this report inspire continued holistic thinking and collective effort towards a developed and equitable world.

With Love & Purpose,
Kamna Hazrati
Founder - AndPurpose

***With our
countrywide
forums we aim to
bring together
India's Impact &
Sustainability
ecosystem
together, with
changemakers
young & old
coming together,
we can contribute
to making a better
world.***

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The AndPurpose Forum, held in New Delhi on March 27, 2025, brought together 125+ thought leaders, change-makers, social entrepreneurs, corporate leaders, and policy strategists, reinforcing its status as a transformative platform for advancing sustainability, innovation, and collaboration. As an ecosystem enabler for sustainability & impact, AndPurpose operates at the intersection of collaboration and communications, building platforms to shape narratives for a better world.

The AndPurpose Forum, New Delhi embodied that mission by encouraging cross-sector partnerships and mobilizing actionable solutions to address urgent global challenges aligned with the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs). Focused on encouraging social innovation for sustainability, climate action, and impact, the event bridged traditional wisdom with modern innovation, inspiring attendees to align purpose with progress.

With 125+ participants including social entrepreneurs, CSR Leaders, foundations, think tanks & policymakers, the forum featured impactful sessions on clean energy, environmental awareness, education for change, circular economy, and innovation for impact, fostering meaningful dialogue and tangible results.

Our Purpose: A Vision for Change

AndPurpose is dedicated to building a better India through sustainability, innovation, and collaboration. The New Delhi Forum united stakeholders around three main pillars, sustainability, social innovation, and climate consciousness, which guided discussions on transformative initiatives such as clean energy, focus on WASH, environmental awareness, and circular economy solutions.



Key insights included empowering solar 'prosumers,' addressing urban pollution, and advancing innovations in soil health. It covered aspects from the financial facts like India's ₹ 1.6 lakh crore CSR investments & ₹ 90,000 crore in impact financing, along with agricultural breakthroughs and purpose-driven CSR efforts. Long-term impact was emphasized through metrics such as farmer profitability, with 2024's record heat highlighting the urgency.

The AndPurpose Forum reaffirmed its role as a catalyst for scaling impact, unlocking purpose-driven solutions, and shaping India's sustainable future. Looking ahead to upcoming forums in Bengaluru & Mumbai, we remain committed to strengthening collaborations, driving innovative change, and positioning India as a global leader in sustainability & impact.

We sincerely thank our partners, sponsors, and attendees for making this milestone event possible. Through our forums across the country, we are trying to build the impact & sustainability ecosystem and engage with all the stakeholders to drive impact at scale.

We invite you to join us in this journey, to continue building a India where purpose thrives.

OUR PARTNERS

MEDIA SPOTLIGHT

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4300+ M VIEWS

HIGHLIGHTS

1 Day	100+ Attendees	15+ Speakers	25+ Partners
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MESSAGE FROM SUDARSHAN SUCHI

CHIEF DEVELOPMENT OFFICER, RELIANCE FOUNDATION



At the AndPurpose Forum 2025, we didn't just talk about change, we explored how to design it to last. Actual impact, as I've come to believe over a 37-year journey through India's social fabric, is never engineered from the top. It's co-created with empathy, with humility, and most importantly, *with people, not for them.*

From dairy farmers to digital natives, from remote villages to urban boardrooms, one truth endures: *the most potent solutions are born where compassion meets capability.* Whether it's embedding empathy in CSR or letting youth script their models of change, the task before us is to listen deeply, enable boldly, and exit gracefully leaving behind not dependency, but dignity.

If we want to build something timeless, let's stop building in silos. Let's start building *systems that listen, learn, and liberate.*

Real change isn't linear. It's lived.

"Titles will come and go, but when you keep your feet on the ground and truly live the reality, you find your real purpose."

KNOWLEDGE SESSION

SOCIAL STARTUPS INNOVATING FOR INDIA'S UNIQUE CHALLENGES



MADHUKAR
SWAYAMBHU
FOUNDER
VAIDIC SRIJAN



SHENOY MATHEW
CHIEF SUSTAINABILITY OFFICER,
ARYA.AG



SNEHAL VERMA
CO-FOUNDER &
DIRECTOR,
NATUREDOTS



AISHWARYA LAHARIYA
CO-FOUNDER,
JIWYA



VARUN KHERA
MODERATOR, HEAD OF
PARTNERSHIPS, JOSH TALKS

The opening session of the AndPurpose Forum in New Delhi set the stage for a deep dive into the power and potential of social entrepreneurship in India. The session brought together trailblazing social entrepreneurs and innovators to unpack India's unique development challenges and chart bold, actionable pathways toward sustainability. With a sharp focus on scaling impact, technology for good, and community-rooted innovation, the discussion provided key insights into how social startups are redefining India's social enterprise ecosystem. It spotlighted both the structural barriers that persist and the opportunities that lie ahead to create enduring, inclusive change.

The conversation tackled urgent gaps in the ecosystem. From the scarcity of patient capital and the communication gap between impact and outcome, to the fragmented knowledge systems that still shape misguided development policies. Speakers emphasized the need for collaborative ecosystems, community trust, and storytelling that connects profit with purpose.

Technology and AI emerged as enablers of precision restoration, traceability, and grassroots innovation. While a call to anchor solutions in lived realities reminded all that scale without sustainability is short-lived. From restoring lakes to rethinking fashion waste, the session made one thing clear: **India's future will be built not just with capital and code, but with context, courage, and community.**

Social enterprises often struggle to articulate their value beyond financial metrics. There's a growing need for storytelling that blends business outcomes with social and environmental impact to attract partners & funders.
-Aishwarya Lahariya, Founder, Jiwyia

"Trying to solve everything alone leads to burnout and diluted focus. Collaboration and co-creation are essential for amplifying impact."
Shenoy Mathew -
Chief
Sustainability
Officer, Arya.ag



Scan this QR code to watch session

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

SOCIAL STARTUPS INNOVATING FOR INDIA'S UNIQUE CHALLENGES

Agri-Tech Must Go Beyond Yield, Think Resilience, Access, and Autonomy

The future of agriculture lies not just in production, but in credit access, farmgate infrastructure, and collective ownership. Platforms like Arya.ag are proving that farmer-first design, when combined with digital traceability, can unlock resilient rural economies at scale.

AI for Ecosystems: Shift from Smart Cities to Smart Commons

AI is no longer just an urban tool. Innovations like digital twin ecosystems and precision monitoring are restoring degraded water bodies and securing access for millions. Tech must now serve natural systems, not just human systems, with accountability, accuracy, and empathy.

Revival is the New Innovation: Learn Forward by Looking Back

From Vedic ecology to textile traditions, indigenous systems offer blueprints for low-waste, climate-smart solutions. The lesson: circularity isn't new, we're simply re-learning what was once common sense. Rooted innovation must become the default, not the deviation.

Fashion Can't Be Fast, It Must Be Fair, Plant-Based, and Place-Based

Brands like Jiwyia spotlight a future where biomaterials replace synthetics, and local craft reclaims cultural and ecological relevance. Sustainable fashion isn't a trend, it's a return to ethical supply chains, waste elimination, and community prosperity.



**Varun Khera,
Josh Talks,
Moderator**

From the Moderator's chair, this session's power lay in shifting the climate conversation from a distant threat to a lived reality. Our diverse panel mapped a clear path forward, one that fuses evidence-based policy and circular economy principles with powerful community action.

The consensus was clear: true climate consciousness must become our collective identity, driving purposeful action across all levels of society.

"Catalytic and patient capital are a critical enabler to help social enterprises de-risk their models and attract institutional funding."
**Snehal Verma –
Co-founder,
NatureDots**

***Vote with Your Wallet!
Every consumer choice can drive change- supporting social enterprises with ethical purchasing decisions is a powerful form of advocacy.
-Aishwarya Lahariya, Founder, Jiwyia***



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KNOWLEDGE SESSION

BUILDING A CLIMATE CONSCIOUS INDIA



The conversation on "Building a Climate-Conscious India" served as an urgent call to embed climate consciousness into the fabric of India's policy, economy, and society. Highlighting stark data on record heat and severe river pollution, the panel championed a multi-pronged approach to drive systemic change. Key solutions discussed included empowering citizens as energy "prosumers" through rooftop solar, transitioning to a circular economy for urban resource management, integrating smallholder farmers into the climate economy with carbon removal platforms, and making climate literacy a core part of youth education. The overarching message was a clear mandate for **collaborative, data-backed, and community-led action to build a resilient and sustainable future.**

From the economics of clean energy to grassroots resilience, the session called for a conscious shift in how we think, act, and lead climate responses over the next 25–30 years. Highlighting stark data on record heat and severe river pollution, including the fact that just 1.6% of the Yamuna's length through Delhi accounts for 76% of its total pollution, the panel underscored the depth of urban environmental crises.

At the same time, it spotlighted transformative solutions already taking root: **carbon removal is no longer a distant vision but a grounded reality.** With platforms like Varaha enabling smallholder farmers to become climate stewards, boosting soil health, generating verifiable carbon credits, and creating rural income pathways. Marking on the awareness of climate change, the session reflected that while 95% of Indians believe in climate change, a national school survey found two-thirds of students don't know how composting works, and 40% think plastic is biodegradable. **The gap between awareness and real climate literacy is still dangerously wide.**



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KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

BUILDING A CLIMATE CONSCIOUS INDIA



Turn Waste Into Wealth: Cities Must Close the Loop, Not the Landfill

India's urban future hinges on shifting from disposal logic to regenerative design. Construction debris, industrial byproducts, and household waste aren't liabilities; they're untapped assets in a circular economy where materials are salvaged, repurposed, and reintegrated into the value chain.

Climate Equity Begins at the Margins

Climate shocks aren't felt equally. Farmers, fishers, and informal workers are Delhi's first responders to environmental collapse. Policies must prioritize adaptive justice, placing the most vulnerable at the center of resource allocation, not at the edge of survival.

Storytelling is Infrastructure

Facts don't move hearts—narratives do. From polluted rivers to heat-scorched streets, we need climate communication that is local, visual, and emotionally resonant. Culture-backed storytelling must become as core to infrastructure as policy or capital.



Dr. Ramneek Bhatia – Chief Catalyst, Habitat India | Moderator

From Moderator's chair, this session served as a crucial call to action, highlighting urgent climate realities like extreme heat and river pollution. It championed a multi-pronged approach, empowering citizens as "prosumers," fostering a circular economy, integrating farmers into carbon removal, and enhancing youth climate literacy. The consensus emphasized collaborative, data-backed, and community-led action for a resilient, sustainable future.

India's Investment Imperative: Climate action needs scale. Globally, \$6–8 trillion is needed annually to build resilience. India alone must mobilize \$250 billion over the next five years to transition responsibly and equitably.



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KNOWLEDGE SESSION

UNLOCKING INDIA'S CSR & IMPACT FINANCE POTENTIAL



As India's role in shaping the global development agenda expands, this session explored how the country can strategically harness its growing reserves of CSR and impact capital to drive lasting change. Amidst a shifting aid landscape, it made a compelling case for designing homegrown financial systems that serve both purpose and performance.

The conversation traced the evolution of CSR from a compliance checkbox to a lever for long-term transformation, and highlighted the critical role of impact finance in unlocking innovation across clean energy, agriculture, and climate resilience. India's ₹1.6 lakh crore CSR spend and the exponential rise of ₹90,000 crore in impact finance reflect significant momentum, but also reveal sharp inequities in fund distribution and outcome measurement.

Speakers underscored that the real challenge isn't the lack of capital, it's how that capital is deployed, how risk is shared, and how outcomes are tracked. The session called for a redesign of traditional investment mindsets, urging a shift from short-cycle thinking to patient, values-aligned capital that supports deep social innovation.

From purpose-first CSR models that transcend regulatory mandates to blended finance strategies that de-risk frontier sectors, the conversation laid a powerful blueprint for what it means to fund impact with intention.

***When capital flows with clarity of purpose,
transformation isn't just possible, it's inevitable.***



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KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

UNLOCKING INDIA'S CSR & IMPACT FINANCE POTENTIAL

Shift from Funding Projects to Shaping Systems

To truly unlock transformative outcomes, CSR and impact finance must focus not on isolated interventions but on systemic change, reshaping how sectors operate, how value is shared, and how long-term resilience is built.

Local Innovation, Global Relevance

India's CSR and impact finance ecosystem has the potential to set global precedents, especially in climate-smart agriculture, water stewardship, and circular economy models led by local communities and companies.

Redesign Risk for the Rural Economy

Traditional venture models fall short in rural India. Risk models must be tailored to seasons, soil, and social change, supporting long-gestation R&D and innovation beyond metropolitan markets.

Time Is the Catalyst, Not the Constraint

Lasting impact doesn't follow a quarterly cadence. Water regeneration, soil recovery, and livelihood revival unfold over years, not months. Funders must be willing to stay the course.

Nonprofits Are Not Just Enablers, They're Builders

In today's capital landscape, nonprofits must position themselves not as passive implementers but as co-architects of innovation, offering agility, access, and domain intelligence.

Capital can spark change, but only purpose can sustain it. When time, trust, and intention align—impact becomes inevitable. That's the new currency of transformation.

Be a Conduit, Not a Commander.

Entrepreneurs don't need protection from failure. They need support to rise after falling. True leadership means stepping aside – not stepping in. Rather than solving problems for people, channel resources toward enabling communities to lead, experiment, and grow on their own terms.

–Sudarshan Suchi,

Chief Development Officer, Reliance Foundation



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KEYNOTE

FROM COMPASSION TO CAPABILITY



SUDARSHAN SUCHI
CHIEF DEVELOPMENT OFFICER,
RELIANCE FOUNDATION



KAMNA HAZRATI
FOUNDER, ANDPURPOSE

In a thought-provoking keynote fireside conversation, Sudarshan Suchi, Chief Development Officer at Reliance Foundation, distilled the wisdom of a 37-year journey across India's most impactful institutions into a timeless blueprint for transformative social change.

Far from a conventional keynote, the session unfolded as a compelling case for **rethinking how we design, measure, and sustain impact in India's evolving development landscape.**

Challenging the deeply ingrained culture of interventionism, Suchi championed a shift from doing for communities to building with them. He called on leaders, funders, and changemakers to act not as commanders of capital, but as conduits of capability, moving resources, trust, and ownership into the hands of those closest to the problem.

His message was rooted in radical empathy and system-level thinking: **immerse before you ideate, learn before you lead, and design for dignity, not dependency.** Whether discussing rural immersion practices at Reliance Foundation or his commitment to gender justice, Suchi emphasized that true transformation requires not just strategy but structural humility.

From yielding space to India's youth and institutionalizing gender equity, to embedding exit strategies into program design, the keynote offered a masterclass in scale that starts small, and solutions that honor complexity. What emerged was not a grand vision, but a grounded manifesto: **real change is not linear, it's lived, over time, through trust, and alongside communities.**

***Communities should be allowed to fail, to experiment,
we must plan our own exit.
The goal isn't dependency, but dignified autonomy.***



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KEY LEARNINGS

FROM COMPASSION TO CAPABILITY

With a career spanning rural transformation, child rights, sustainable agriculture, and systems philanthropy, Sudarshan Suchi brought unmatched depth to the conversation on what truly makes impact endure. He emphasized that real change starts with proximity, detailing how every new team member at Reliance Foundation lives for a month in rural India, experiencing life without electricity, sanitation, or gas. “We design in boardrooms, but impact is lived in villages,” he noted, **positioning empathy not as sentiment, but as a strategic design principle.** ‘On the idea of scale, he dismantled the obsession with numbers, arguing that true scale begins with design fidelity. “Understand the microcosm before attempting to scale,” he said, **reminding the audience that health, livelihoods, and education don’t exist in silos, and neither should our solutions.**



Design Through Immersion, Not Assumptions

“We design in boardrooms, but impact is lived in villages.”

At Reliance Foundation, new team members spend a month living with rural families. Empathy is not a buzzword – it’s an operating principle, practiced through direct experience of deprivation, resilience, and resourcefulness.

Let the Young Lead Now – Not Later

“They don’t need directions. They need space. And Google.”

India’s youth – nearly 50% of the population, don’t need blueprints handed down to them. They need room to create their own.

Older generations must shift from controlling the narrative to enabling experimentation.

Build Inner Belief—Not Outer Dependency

“Empower people to become agents of their own upliftment, not beneficiaries of charity.”

True social transformation is psychological as much as it is structural. The goal is not service delivery – it’s self-belief.

When communities own the narrative, progress becomes self-sustaining.



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CARBON NEUTRAL FORUM

At the AndPurpose Forum, sustainability wasn't just a principle; it was practiced. From event planning to execution, every element was curated to reflect our deep responsibility to both people and planet. We are proud to share that the **Forum officially achieved carbon neutrality**, setting a precedent for purpose-driven convenings in India and beyond.

Through our collaboration with **Enen Green**, we offset the forum's entire carbon footprint by planting trees, turning emissions into ecosystems. As a return gift, AndPurpose also planted trees for all its speakers and partners in association with Grow Billion Trees.



Carbon Neutrality Partner



Sustainability Partner



Tree Plantation for all Speakers & Partners

SOCIAL INNOVATIONS EXHIBIT PARTNERS



JiwyA is a pioneering social enterprise at the intersection of sustainable fashion and cultural preservation. With a mission to combat the vast environmental degradation caused by the textile industry, **JiwyA creates exquisite zero-waste apparel** and art using exclusively 100% plant-based materials.



Vaidic Srijan, is a pioneering social enterprise dedicated to restoring ecological balance at the intersection of health and the environment. Established in 2011 after a decade of intensive research, the organization leverages its patented '**Cownomics**' **technology** to develop deep innovations that rejuvenate vital natural systems, including water bodies, soil, and air.



Jal Chakra is a pioneering water technology company at the forefront of tackling India's water scarcity crisis by creating a circular economy for water. Specializing in **decentralized wastewater treatment and recycling**, the company designs and installs innovative, nature-based Sewage and Effluent Treatment Plants (STPs/ETPs) for residential communities, industries, and commercial establishments.



CLUIX is a deeptech cleantech startup transforming how the world monitors and manages water quality. At the intersection of AI, IoT, and environmental science, CLUIX has developed an affordable, portable, and real-time water quality analyzer that empowers stakeholders across rural and urban geographies to make timely, data-driven decisions.

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WITH LOVE & PURPOSE

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