



FORUMS

📍 Bengaluru

2025



Impact Report 2025

**People, Planet
& Purpose.**



About AndPurpose

At the heart of India's sustainability and impact ecosystem, AndPurpose Forums are a convening platform designed to turn intent into action. Rooted in the belief that complex challenges demand collective solutions, AndPurpose Forums bring together leaders across business, policy, philanthropy, innovation, and civil society to catalyse systems-level change.

The Bengaluru Forum marked a foundational moment in AndPurpose's journey, both chronologically and philosophically. Hosted on 24 July 2025 at Sabha, a heritage space emblematic of Bengaluru's old-school architectural and intellectual legacy, the forum brought together practitioners, investors, founders, and civil society leaders to engage in honest, future-facing dialogue on purpose-driven innovation.

Bengaluru, long regarded as India's innovation capital, offered a fitting backdrop for conversations that moved beyond surface-level sustainability narratives to examine the deeper systems shaping capital, communities, and enterprise. The forum was intentionally designed as a space for reflection and exchange, where diverse forms of capital, from philanthropy to venture, intersected with lived realities on the ground.

Across four thematic sessions, a purpose pitch segment, and a parallel social innovation exhibition, the Bengaluru Forum explored how ideas evolve into action, how trust is built across ecosystems, and how long-term value is created when human outcomes are placed at the center of decision-making. Rather than prescribing solutions, the forum surfaced questions about patience, accountability, inclusion, and scale that are critical to building resilient and equitable futures.

As the first in the AndPurpose forum series, Bengaluru set the tone: thoughtful, candid, and rooted in the belief that meaningful progress emerges when capital, conscience, and community move forward together.

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Kamna Hazrati

Founder, AndPurpose

“The Bengaluru Forum was conceived as a space for honest inquiry, a moment to pause, listen, and reflect on how capital, innovation, and purpose must evolve together to meet the realities of our time.”

Hosted at Sabha, a 150 year old heritage property steeped in Bengaluru’s architectural and civic legacy, the forum felt grounded in continuity, honouring the past while engaging meaningfully with the future, communicating our commitment to urban resilience. The setting underscored that lasting progress is built not only through disruption, but through stewardship, patience, and responsibility. Our sincere gratitude to our sponsors & partners for trusting us in this mission to bring impact at scale.

Across four curated sessions, a purpose pitch, and a parallel social innovation exhibition, the forum brought together voices from philanthropy, impact investing, venture capital, civil society, and entrepreneurship.

What united them was a shared concern: how can we design financial, social, and institutional systems that truly serve people and planet, with integrity as well as scale?

Conversations moved beyond frameworks to explore trust, agency, and accountability. We examined the role of catalytic capital, the realities of community-rooted enterprises, and the tensions between speed and patience, growth and resilience, metrics and lived experience, tensions that must be held if inclusive progress is to be meaningful.

The purpose pitch and social innovation showcase grounded these ideas in lived practice, reminding us that impact emerges through long-term commitment and community engagement.

The Bengaluru Forum did not seek definitive answers. Instead, it aimed to deepen collective understanding and reaffirm a shared responsibility: to reimagine capital as a means to enable dignity, opportunity, and a livable future.



Our Partners

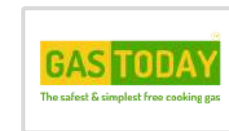
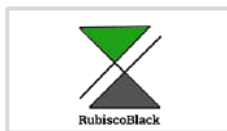
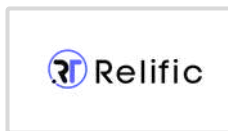
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1

Day

250+

Attendees

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Speakers

12+

Innovations



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4300+ M VIEWS

Bengaluru Forum

|Executive Summary

The Bengaluru Forum, held on **24 July 2025 at Sabha**, a heritage venue emblematic of Bengaluru's old-school architectural legacy, convened leaders across finance, enterprise, philanthropy, policy, and innovation to explore how capital can meaningfully contribute to a more inclusive, resilient, and sustainable future.

Designed as a thoughtful, practitioner-led dialogue, the forum emphasized lived experience over theory and practical pathways over abstract commitments. Across four thematic sessions, participants examined how sustainability, purpose, and long-term value creation are reshaping capital allocation, business models, and institutional mindsets in India.

Session Highlights

- **Session 1** explored the evolution of ESG from a compliance obligation to a strategic imperative. Speakers reflected on the need to embed ESG into everyday decision-making, navigate short-term pressures with long-term purpose, and shift mindsets to enable systemic change rather than incremental improvement.
- **Session 2** examined how capital structures and governance models must evolve to support sustainable growth. Discussions focused on aligning incentives, strengthening accountability, and ensuring that long-term value creation remains central even amid market volatility and performance pressures.
- **Session 3** highlighted the role of innovation and enterprise in addressing complex social and environmental challenges. Panelists emphasized the importance of grounding solutions in local context, enabling experimentation, and building institutions that can absorb risk while scaling impact responsibly.
- **Session 4** "Purposeful Capital for a Livable Future," brought together perspectives from philanthropy, impact investing, and venture capital to examine how innovators can unlock finance across different stages of their business journeys. The conversation underscored the catalytic role of philanthropic capital, the need for human-centric investment models, and the importance of patience, trust, and community accountability in underserved and emerging markets.

Bengaluru Forum

|Executive Summary

Purpose Pitch & Social Innovation Showcase

Running alongside the sessions were a **purpose pitch** and a **social innovation exhibition**, which provided entrepreneurs and mission-driven organizations a platform to present real-world solutions addressing challenges across climate resilience, livelihoods, access to services, and community well-being. These engagements grounded the forum's discussions in practice, enabling investors, ecosystem leaders, and peers to engage directly with on-the-ground innovation.

Overall Impact

The Bengaluru Forum fostered **open, reflective, and cross-sectoral dialogue**, creating space for candid conversations on what it takes to finance impact responsibly at scale. By bringing together varied forms of capital and diverse voices, from civil society to venture investors, the forum **reinforced the importance of collaboration, long-term thinking, and trust-based approaches in shaping India's sustainable growth trajectory.**

The discussions, pitches, and showcases collectively underscored a shared insight: meaningful impact emerges not from **isolated interventions, but from aligned capital, patient partnerships, and a deep commitment to people and purpose.**



Our Speakers



RCM Reddy
CEO,
Schoolnet & Learnet India



Gautam John
CEO,
Rohini Nilenkani Philanthropies



Samhita R
CEO,
Resilience 360 AI



Major Prasanna Sarashetti
Founder's Office,
Atria Group



Kamna Hazrati
Founder & CEO,
AndPurpose



Shobha Venkataraman
Partner,
Elevar Equity



A B Chakravarthy
Co-CEO,
Upaya Social Ventures



Aruna Newton
ESG & DEI Lead
Infosys



Nidhi Bhasin
CEO,
Digital Green Trust

Our Speakers



Andrew Almack
CEO,
Plastics for Change



Aiyappa Somananda
CBO,
Brigade REAP



Jayanthi Raju Vadivelu
Consulting Director,
ERM



Abhijit Paul Zacharia
Head ESG,
BAGMANE



Akshatha Venkatesha
Inclusive Climate Action (ICA) City Advisor, Bengaluru
C40 Cities



Wilma Rodrigues
Founding Member & CTO,
Sahaas Zero Waste



Devansh Pashin
Regional Program Manager
Enviu



Nalini Shekhar
Co founder,
Hasiru Dala



Gangadhar Kodandaram
Biz Dev Lead,
Microsoft

ESG Beyond Compliance, From Strategy to Systems Change

| Knowledge Session

The opening session of the Bengaluru Forum explored the evolution of **Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) frameworks in India**, from compliance-driven reporting to a strategic, mission-led approach shaping long-term business resilience and societal outcomes.

Bringing together leaders from **technology, real estate, sustainability consulting, social innovation, and governance**, the discussion examined how ESG must move beyond checklists to become **embedded in daily decision-making, organisational culture, and leadership mindset**.



Jayanthi Raju Vadivelu (ERM); Aruna Newton (Infosys); Major Prasanna Sarashetti (Atria Group); Samhita R. (Resilience AI); Abhijit Paul Zacharia (Bagmane Group)

“ESG is not about doing the world a favour It is about acting with conscience, as individuals and as institutions. Technology may give us scale, but it is integrity, ethics, and inclusion that give ESG its meaning”

The session emphasised that **future-proofing businesses and cities requires integrating environmental stewardship, social equity, and ethical governance as interconnected systems**, rather than isolated initiatives.

ESG Beyond Compliance, From Strategy to Systems Change

|Key Discussion & Highlights

01 **ESG as a Strategic Imperative, Not a Reporting Exercise**

Speakers highlighted that ESG is increasingly driven by national commitments, global supply-chain expectations, and investor scrutiny, but true impact emerges only when ESG is treated as a core business philosophy rather than a regulatory obligation.

02 **Leadership, Vision, and Long-Term Thinking**

A recurring theme was the tension between short-term performance pressures and long-term sustainability goals. Panelists stressed that organisations with a clear mission and values-led leadership are better positioned to withstand short-term trade-offs while delivering enduring impact.



“Environmental metrics have matured, governance is improving, but the social pillar remains our biggest blind spot. True progress will come only when dignity of labour and inclusion are treated as core business priorities, not peripheral commitments.”



03 **Built Environment as a Climate Lever**

The session underscored the outsized role of buildings and infrastructure in energy consumption and emissions. Participants discussed how scientific design, data-led planning, and green building standards can significantly reduce environmental impact while improving human well-being.

04 **Social Innovation as the Missing Link**

While governance and environmental metrics have matured, speakers acknowledged that social impact, particularly dignity of labour, inclusion of informal workers, and workforce diversity, lags behind. Addressing this gap was positioned as critical to holistic ESG outcomes.

05 **Technology, Data, and Human Conscience**

AI, digital platforms, and data analytics were recognised as enablers of scale, measurement, and transparency. However, the panel strongly reinforced that technology must be guided by ethics, inclusivity, and human conscience, not treated as a substitute for responsible decision-making.



In Pictures



Bengaluru at 2°C , Reimagining Urban Futures

| Knowledge Session

Session 2 focused on **urban resilience, climate adaptation, and inclusive city-building**, positioning Bengaluru as both a **case study and catalyst** for India's sustainable urban transition.

Set against the backdrop of **rapid urbanisation, rising temperatures, water stress, waste challenges, and social inequities**, the session brought together voices from real estate innovation, circular economy, waste worker livelihoods, and global city networks.

The discussion moved beyond diagnostics to examine how cities can shift from reactive responses to regenerative, people-centric systems capable of thriving in a 2°C-constrained world.

“Waste management is not rocket science , governance and intent are. The solutions already exist; what we lack is enforcement, accountability, and a willingness to change how we consume.”



Nalini Shekar (Hasiru Dala); Wilma Rodrigues (Sahaas Zero Waste); Akshatha Venkatesha(C40 Cities); Aiyappa Somayanda (Brigade REAP); Devansh Peshin (enviu)

Bengaluru at 2°C, Reimagining Urban Futures

|Key Discussion and Highlights

01 **From Reactive Growth to Regenerative Urbanism**

Panelists reflected on Bengaluru's transformation over the past two decades, acknowledging progress while emphasising that urban development has often prioritised speed over systems thinking. Regenerative planning, integrating climate, ecology, and social equity, was positioned as the next imperative.

02 **Waste as a System, Not a Service**

The session highlighted that waste management is central to climate resilience, public health, and livelihoods. Speakers stressed decentralised systems, segregation at source, and community participation as essential to reducing landfill dependence and emissions.

03 **Circular Economy & Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)**

EPR frameworks were discussed as powerful tools for accountability, but speakers cautioned that regulatory intent must be matched by enforcement, industry ownership, and consumer pressure. Circularity was framed as both an environmental necessity and a job-creation opportunity.

04 **Dignity, Livelihoods, and Climate Justice**

A strong emphasis was placed on the role of informal waste workers as frontline climate actors. Integrating their knowledge, ensuring social protection, and creating upward mobility were identified as non-negotiable for inclusive urban resilience.

05 **Innovation, Capital, and Market Adoption**

From proptech accelerators to social enterprises, speakers examined what it takes for sustainable solutions to scale, highlighting the importance of commercial viability, long-term partnerships, and ecosystem-wide collaboration, rather than pilot-led experimentation alone.

06 **Data-Driven Climate Action with People at the Centre**

While climate data and modelling are essential for city planning, the session reinforced that numbers must translate into human outcomes. Participatory planning, community mapping, and frontline engagement were presented as critical complements to data-led governance.



In Pictures



Tech and Purpose for a Regenerative Tomorrow

| Knowledge Session



RCM Reddy (Schoolnet); Andrew Almack (Plastics for Change); Nidhi Bhasin (Digital Green Trust); Gangadhar Kodandara (Microsoft)

“Technology makes ethical supply chains possible at scale. Traceability, certification, and data transparency are what allow circular economy models to move from exception to norm”

Session 3 explored how **purpose-driven technology** is being applied across agriculture, education, and waste management to create **regenerative, inclusive, and scalable solutions** for India’s most pressing challenges. The discussion brought together leaders working at the intersection of **AI, digital platforms, livelihoods, and environmental restoration, underscoring** that technology’s true potential lies not in advancement alone, but in **how deliberately it is designed to serve people and planet.**

Panelists emphasized that meaningful impact emerges when technology is **grounded in trust, contextual understanding, and community realities.** From AI-enabled advisory tools for smallholder farmers, to traceable fair-trade plastic supply chains, to holistic digital ecosystems in education, the session highlighted how tech can bridge structural gaps, information asymmetry, literacy barriers, informality, and exclusion, while restoring dignity, agency, and opportunity to vulnerable communities.

A recurring insight was that regenerative outcomes require **ecosystem thinking:** integrating technology with policy, partnerships, and human-centered design to ensure that scale does not come at the cost of equity or resilience.

Tech and Purpose for a Regenerative Tomorrow

| Knowledge Session



01 Technology as an Enabler of Trust and Access

Successful digital interventions are built bottom-up, informed by years of on-ground engagement. Trust, not tools, is the foundation of adoption, particularly among women farmers, informal waste workers, and underserved students.

02 AI and Data for Livelihood Resilience

AI-driven, multimodal platforms are enabling timely, localized decision-making for farmers, increasing incomes while reducing input costs and vulnerability to climate shocks.

For us, technology is not about building products, it's about building trust. When information reaches farmers in the right language, at the right time, and without judgment, it becomes a source of empowerment

03 Circular Economy Requires Digital Transparency

Scaling ethical recycling depends on digital traceability, certification systems, and real-time impact dashboards that make supply chains verifiable, compliant, and trustworthy for brands and consumers alike.

04 Education as a Regenerative Lever

Technology in education must go beyond devices and content. Holistic ecosystems, teacher training, adoption support, and impact measurement, are essential to democratize access to future-ready skills and sustainability literacy.

05 From Sustainability to Regeneration

Panelists stressed the need to move beyond “doing less harm” toward actively restoring social and ecological systems, supported by cross-sector collaboration and catalytic government engagement.



Purposeful Capital for a Livable Future

| Knowledge Session

This session brought together diverse perspectives from philanthropy, impact investing, and venture capital to explore how finance can better support India's innovators across different stages of their business journeys. Designed as a continuum, from catalytic philanthropic capital to patient impact capital and finally venture-scale investment, the discussion examined how each form of capital plays a distinct but interconnected role in building resilient, inclusive markets.

Panelists reflected on real-world examples of philanthropy enabling systemic change, impact capital supporting enterprises in overlooked geographies, and venture capital helping scale solutions serving entrepreneurial households. The session underscored that unlocking finance for India's future requires moving beyond narrow growth metrics toward trust-building, community engagement, and long-term value creation.



Gautam John (RNPF); AB Chakravarthy (Upaya Social Ventures); Shobha Venkataraman (Elevor Equity); Kamna Hazrati (AndPurpose)

"The most powerful systemic shifts happen when communities are treated as stewards, not beneficiaries. Philanthropy's role is to build civic capacity so societies, markets, and states become more resilient together"

Purposeful Capital for a Livable Future

|Key Discussion and Highlights

“Traditional capital expects every enterprise to run the same race. But impact requires capital that adapts to the entrepreneur’s journey, the geography they operate in, and the livelihoods they create.”

01 Philanthropy as catalytic capital

Philanthropic capital was highlighted as a critical first mover in enabling systemic change, particularly in areas such as water governance, justice delivery, and civic resilience, by investing patiently where markets and states cannot act quickly.

02 Data-Driven Climate Action with People at the Centre

Impact capital was framed as most effective when aligned with the aspirations of entrepreneurs and communities, prioritizing quality job creation, predictable livelihoods, and long-term enterprise sustainability over rapid scale.

03 Serving overlooked geographies and enterprises

Panelists reflected on Bengaluru’s transformation over the past two decades, acknowledging progress while emphasising that urban development has often prioritised speed over systems thinking. Regenerative planning, integrating climate, ecology, and social equity, was positioned as the next imperative.

04 Reframing markets around entrepreneurial households

Venture investors called for a shift in language and mindset, from viewing communities as “vulnerable” to recognizing them as entrepreneurial households representing a massive, investable market opportunity across essential services like healthcare, education, food, and finance.

05 Trust as a core investment principle

Across all forms of capital, trust emerged as foundational. Participants cautioned against “fail-fast” approaches in underserved communities, noting that enterprise failure can erode trust and set back entire ecosystems.

06 Capital aligned with time and impact

The discussion stressed that patient capital must be matched by patient founders and funders alike, with accountability measured through progress over time rather than short-term financial returns alone.

Social Innovation & Purpose Pitch Partners

Solutions for People & Planet - Meet the Innovators that are building for a better world innovating across the fields of education, energy, water, sustainability & more.



Vaidic Srijan

A pioneering social enterprise dedicated to restoring ecological balance at the intersection of health and the environment. It leverages its patented 'Cownomics' technology to develop deep innovations that rejuvenate vital natural systems, including water bodies, soil, and air.



Relific

Enabling CSR and social orgs to transform field data into intelligent insights and reports, enabling smarter program management and impact tracking.



RubiscoBlack

RubiscoBlack is a ClimateTech startup developing Enhanced Rock Weathering based CO2 Removal(CDR) Solutions for Urban Gardens, Greenbelts & Landscapes.



Hasiru Dala

Hasiru Dala is a not-for-profit organisation that promotes social justice for waste pickers through education, healthcare, and employment access.



Fashion Revolution India

World's largest fashion activism movement, mobilising citizens, brands and policymakers through research, education and advocacy.



Sri Sathya Sai Annapoorna Trust

Running India's Largest Morning Nutrition Program across 25 States & 4 UTs. This Program serves 1 Crore + school children in India.

GasToday



Specialises in generating bio-energy from all types of organic biodegradable waste.

Chrysalis



Awakening the Human Potential in every child with over 25 years of pedagogy, research and CSR implementation experience

Ploxi Consult



Ploxi helps clean-tech, finance, and corporates achieve net-zero goals through ESG, strategy, and climate transition support.

Vaikuntham Advisory



Vaikuntham Advisory is a Kerala-based startup enabling ecological restoration of water bodies across South India, using nature-based solutions.

Revcure



Revcure is a construction intelligence and estimation platform designed to drive profitability, efficiency, and sustainability.

Paprap



Paprap is a sustainable, flexible wrap made from upcycled cartons. Perfect for e-commerce and D2C shipping, reducing cost, waste, and empty space.



Together for People, Planet & Purpose.



Thank you for taking the time to read this report. If you have any questions or would like to discuss our findings further, please don't hesitate to reach out to us.

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