



charcha

India's largest collaborative convening

20-22 August 2024 | India Habitat Centre, Delhi

In an increasingly 'digital-first' world, charcha has demonstrated that face-to-face interactions serve as a powerful incubator for new ideas, offering safe spaces for open dialogue, collaborative problem-solving and cross-pollination of perspectives that might otherwise have never been imagined.

Beyond visible outcomes of formal sessions, charcha derives its true power from intangible elements such as spontaneous meet-ups, conversations in hallways, shared moments of vulnerability and the cultivation of a supportive and evolving community.

Foreword

As India's largest collaborative convening, charcha 2024 brought together an impressive array of stakeholders including government leaders, industry experts, social entrepreneurs, philanthropists, funders and grassroots activists over three-days (20th-22nd August 2024) to the India Habitat Centre, Delhi.

This multi-stakeholder engagement approach facilitated rich dialogue and collaborative solution-finding for India's most pressing livelihood development challenges, making charcha an essential platform for spotlighting the nation's inclusive growth agenda, focused towards creating pathways for a "Viksit and Inclusive Bharat@100."

More than **200 speakers** contributed diverse perspectives and facilitated crucial conversations across themes like inclusion, technology for good, rural livelihoods, women empowerment, policy governance and more. Conversations addressed critical challenges across multiple sectors, including workforce participation, technology adoption and rural development. Key themes included improving female labor force participation, integrating AI responsibly into the workplace, strengthening digital inclusion and enhancing skill development programs.

As we move forward on the path of becoming Viksit Bharat@2047, platforms like charcha remain crucial in fostering dialogue, sharing best practices and building consensus and trust amongst diverse stakeholders including samaj, sarkar and bazaar

charcha 2024 highlighted several transformative approaches to achieve these goals, including the role of AI in societal transformation, the importance of direct cash transfers and strategies for digital inclusion. Discussions emphasized that including women in the workforce could boost India's GDP by 27%, while also addressing the challenges faced by persons with disabilities, representing a significant talent pool of over 100 million Indians. charcha 2024 also stressed the importance of community-driven change, sustainable agricultural practices as well as water security for rural development. Notably, the discussions advocated for a shift from job-seeking to job creation, with an emphasis on combining manufacturing with engineering and design to generate high-quality employment opportunities.

Looking ahead, charcha 2024 has set the stage for continued collaboration and action toward achieving India's development goals. The convening's comprehensive coverage of critical issues and emphasis on implementable and scalable solutions demonstrates the evolving maturity of India's development discourse.

As India moves forward on its path to becoming Viksit @2047, platforms like charcha will remain crucial in fostering dialogue, sharing best practices and building consensus and trust amongst diverse stakeholders.

The next edition, charcha 2025 (12th-14th November 2025), promises to further advance critical conversations and collaborations, and track progress on plans made and outcomes targeted.



Contents

charcha 2024

At a glance

8

Day 1 sessions

Key takeaways | Panel breakups

11

Day 2 sessions

Key takeaways | Panel breakups

41

Day 3 sessions

Key takeaways | Panel breakups

75

The power of convening

Hear from our speakers

97

charcha 2024: Speakers

101

charcha: Journey so far

111



charcha 2024 - At a glance



2,500+

Attendees



190+

Speakers



22

Co-hosts



40+ hours

of programming



12

Tracks



1

Hackathon

Tracks



Women empowerment



Climate resilience



Inclusion & circularity



Rural livelihood



Tech 4 good



Communities & collaboratives



Social entrepreneurship



Capital & philanthropy



Talent & capacity



Policy & governance

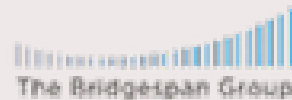


Data & impact



Urban livelihood

Co-hosts



Media partner

ThePrint

Hackathon partner

H2S
HACK2SKILL

Event coverage

DRAMANTRAM

Day 1

20th August, 2024

Roadmap to a 'Viksit & Inclusive' India@100 <i>Plenary Session</i>	13
Climate and equity: pathways for building community resilience <i>Inclusion & circularity</i>	15
Inclusive value chains <i>Inclusion & circularity</i>	17
Solving the skills conundrum: can tech & processes unlock for scale with quality? <i>Urban livelihood</i>	19
Capital with purpose: navigating fundraising landscape <i>Capital & philanthropy</i>	21
Economically empowering women in the age of AI: from glass ceilings to open doors <i>Women empowerment</i>	23
Future of women in work: improving female LFPR by 2030 <i>Women empowerment</i>	25



Day 1

20th August, 2024

From policy to execution: vocational education, internship and school to work transition under NEP 2020	27
<i>Urban livelihood</i>	
Navigating an AI-driven workplace: from challenges to opportunities	29
<i>Urban livelihood</i>	
The power of evidence: how impact can be the catalyst in skills	31
<i>Urban livelihood</i>	
Artisanal renaissance: India & traditional crafts	33
<i>Rural livelihood</i>	
Scaling green entrepreneurship	35
<i>Inclusion & circularity</i>	
Empowering leadership through AI for good: gen AI masterclass	37
<i>Tech 4 good</i>	
Women breaking barriers for women: livelihood, equity, and social justice	39
<i>Women empowerment</i>	





Roadmap to a 'Viksit & Inclusive' India@100

Opening plenary

Key takeaways

India must focus on populous states like UP, Bihar, MP, and Jharkhand to leverage its demographic dividend while addressing nutrition, health, and inclusivity challenges

Agility in the job market is crucial for improving women's employment and including persons with disabilities (PWD) by matching skills with job opportunities

Young people's media consumption reflects a lack of engagement options, serving as a distraction due to the availability of free data

Empowering women and PWD through skilling programs can help overcome barriers and enhance professional advancement

Panel breakup

Moderator- Shekhar Gupta | Founder - ThePrint

Panelists- Arti Ahuja- IAS | Former Secretary- Ministry of Labour & Employment, Govt. of India

Amitabh Kant- IAS | G20 Sherpa, Govt. of India

Dr. R S Sharma | Former CEO, National Health Authority



Inclusion &
circularity



Climate and equity: pathways for building community resilience

Co-host



HSBC

Key takeaways

Integrating ESG and climate considerations is essential for business growth, yet climate-related programs for the base of the pyramid often still rely on a top-down approach

The current system unfairly places the burden of transitioning to natural farming solely on farmers; philanthropists and impact investors can aid this shift by providing funding, inputs, and capacity building

Sustaining economic and livelihood development requires addressing and preserving natural systems that support farming, but the lack of measurable outcomes often leads to inadequate funding

Panel breakup

Keynote speaker- Faiz Ahmed Kidwai- IAS | Additional Secretary- Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Govt. of India

Report Launch - Aloka Majumdar | Managing Director, Global Head of Philanthropy & Head of Sustainability, HSBC India

Moderator- Anant Bhagwati | Partner, The Bridgespan Group

Panelists- Romit Sen | Senior Vice President- Sustainability, HSBC

Shivani Gupta | Co-CEO, Womanity

Arindom Datta | Senior Advisor/ Independent Director Climate/ Agribusiness/ Technology

Dr. Sejal Worah | Programme Director, WWF India

Aparna Dua | Director, The Blended Finance Company



Inclusion &
circularity

Circularity

Co-host

H&M FOUNDATION



Inclusive value chains

Co-host *H&M FOUNDATION*

Value chains significantly affect social, environmental, and economic sectors, and must focus on sustainability and social impact

Inclusive value chains ensure that all stakeholders are seen, heard, and actively engaged in the change process

A key challenge is addressing the root problem of citizen disengagement from their basic responsibilities

Panel breakup

Keynote speaker- Amit Yadav (IAS) | Secretary, Dpt. of Social Justice & Empowerment, Govt. of India

Moderator- Akshay Soni | Managing Partner, The/Nudge Institute

Panelists- Anish Malpani | Founder, Without (by Ashaya)

Gayatri Divecha | Head - Sustainability & CSR Godrej Industries Ltd. & Associate Companies

Indumathi | Waste Entrepreneur, DWCC

Vishal Chowla | Leader, Roundglass Foundation



Urban
livelihood

charcha

India's largest collaborative conven



Solving the skills conundrum:
can technology & processes
unlock for the scale with quality?

Co-host *Generation*
INDIA

Key takeaways

Real-time data capture and eKYC ensure accurate, reliable, and standardized candidate information across platforms

Mobile apps, job platforms, and auto-scaling servers streamline candidate registration and manage high data volumes efficiently

Addressing partnerships and connectivity challenges in remote areas improve access to skill development opportunities

Focused strategies support and integrate women into the workforce, driving productivity and diversity

Panel breakup

Moderator- Ankur Batra | Vice President, Business Development, Generation India Foundation

Panelists- Arunesh Singh | CEO, Generation India

Lohit Bhatia | President Workforce Management, Qness Corp

Sunil Dahiya | Executive Vice President Skilling, Wadhwani Foundation

Dr. Rishikesh Patankar | Vice President, Govt. Programs Division National Skill Development Corporation



Capital & philanthropy



Capital with purpose: navigating fundraising landscape

Key takeaways

Philanthropy must support organizations in adapting and reinventing their approaches to meet evolving challenges

Solutions should address the interconnectedness of problems, requiring a convergent flow of philanthropic efforts

Open dialogue between donors and grassroots organizations is essential to align priorities and ensure that donor strategies reflect actual needs on the ground

Panel breakup

Moderator- V Sriram | Managing Director-Partnerships, The/Nudge Institute

Panelists- Aloka Majumdar | Managing Director, Global Head of Philanthropy & Head of Sustainability, India, HSBC

Deepali Khanna | VP - Asia Regional Office, The Rockefeller Foundation

Kurush Irani | President Group, CSR Bajaj Finserv

Prabhakar L | EVP & Head, Social Investments, ITC



Women
empowerment

charcha

India's largest collaborative convening



Economically empowering
women in the age of AI: from
glass ceilings to open doors

Co-host [LinkedIn](#)

Key takeaways

AI empowers women, with many women-owned businesses adopting AI tools and training programs enhance their participation in tech

Gender-intentional policies are essential for AI development to prevent biases, requiring collaboration between government and industry for inclusivity

Clean, unbiased, and regionally relevant data is vital for effective AI development in India, promoting understanding across diverse communities

Bridging the digital divide and enhancing digital literacy among women and underserved populations is crucial for equitable access to AI opportunities

Panel breakup

Moderator- Aditi Jha | Board Director & Country Head: Legal & Government Affairs, LinkedIn

Panelists- Aparajita Bharti | Founding Partner, TQH

Archna Vyas | Director - Policy & Comms, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

Kanta Singh | Deputy Representative, UN Women India

Nidhi Bhasin | CEO, Nasscom Foundation



Women
empowerment



Future of women in work: improving female LFPR by 2030

Co-host  **Mphasis**
The Next Applied

Key takeaways

The employability gender gap in India is 51%, with only 19.2% of women in the labor force compared to 70.1% of men, indicating urgent action is needed

Diverse data sources are crucial for tracking progress, with local women entrepreneurs as key data gatherers in rural and urban areas

Higher-paying jobs attract more women, while low-income jobs lack sufficient incentives amid family and social barriers

Women experience multiple career breaks, requiring redesigned pathways and effective return-to-work programs

Panel breakup

Keynote speaker- Renu Sud Karnad | Former MD, HDFC

Moderator- Deepa Nagraj | Global Head of Comm, ESG & CSR, Mphasis

Panelists- Varun Khaitan | Co-Founder, Urban Company

Ajaita Shah | Founder, Frontier Markets

Sharon Buteau | Executive Director, KREA University

Pooja Sharma Goyal | Founding CEO, Udaiti Foundation



Urban
livelihood

charcha

India's largest collaborative convening



From policy to execution: vocational education, internship and school to work transition under NEP 2020

Co-host



Lend A Hand India
Building A Skilled Tomorrow

Key takeaways

Integrating fine arts with STEM subjects is crucial, as both soft and hard skills are important, requiring schools to possess the right expertise for effective execution

Internships should include local employers, such as beauty salons and garages, to incorporate entrepreneurial elements into the curriculum alongside large corporations

Mandatory vocational training and public-private initiatives are essential for evolving the secondary education system to achieve broader outcomes

Panel breakup

Moderator- Raj Gilda | Co-Founder , Lend-a-Hand India

Panelists-

Shagun Sabarwal | Regional Director for Asia, Co-Impact

Amrita Mishra | Co-Founder, DarkChocoBitz

Neeti Sharma | CEO, TeamLease Digital

Vandana Bahri | Head - GIRL Capital, CIFF

Pratiksha Mishra



Urban
livelihood

Co-host

LinkedIn



Navigating an AI-driven workplace: from challenges to opportunities

Co-host **LinkedIn**

Key takeaways

India's labor market faces imbalances, with 44% of workforce employed in agriculture contributing only 14% to GDP, highlighting "employed poverty."

AI presents opportunities to democratize resources and enhance economic prospects, especially for marginalized groups, necessitating upskilling in AI and digital literacy.

AI can support roles in healthcare and agriculture without displacing jobs, with skills-first programs essential for improving social mobility among women and rural communities

Effective integration of AI in India requires clean, unbiased data and AI fluency tailored to local contexts to foster understanding across diverse populations

Panel breakup

Keynote speaker - Manish Sabharwal | Vice Chairman, TeamLease

Moderator - Ruchee Anand | Senior Director- Talent & Learning Solutions, LinkedIn

Panelists - Manu Chopra | Co-Founder, Karya
Meg Garlinghouse | VP Social Impact, LinkedIn
Puneet Chandok | President, Microsoft India
Shankar Maruwada | CEO & Co-Founder, EkStep



Urban
livelihood

charcha

India's largest collaborative convening



The power of evidence:
how impact can be the catalyst
in skills

Co-host *Generation*
INDIA

Key takeaways

Tracking income growth, career progression, and employer success assesses the lasting impact of skilling programs

Continuous evaluation and a global skills taxonomy drive data-driven decisions, adaptability, transparency, and evidence-based policies

Addressing systemic livelihood challenges, especially for women, is key to empowering them through skills to overcome barriers

Skilling programs must adapt to the evolving needs of learners and the job market to create a lasting impact

Panel breakup

Moderator- Vivek Pandit | COO, Generation India Foundation

Panelists- Shriya Sethi | Director of Social Impact, McKinsey and Co

Priyanka Yalamanchili | Global Monitoring & Evaluation Manager, Generation India Foundation

Jayant Rastogi | Global CEO, Magic Bus India Foundation

Gabriel Bordado | Specialist, Skills, International Labour Organization



Rural
livelihood

India's largest collaborative conven



Artisanal renaissance: India & traditional crafts

Co-host  TEAMWORK
CELEBRATING THE ARTS

Key takeaways

Artisans are using digital tools to market their crafts directly, improving financial sustainability and adapting to consumer trends

The demand for handmade and sustainable products supports long-term growth in the craft sector

Artisans must balance business scaling with preserving the unique identity of traditional crafts

To build resilience, it's essential to diversify markets, maintain personal design connections, and address export dependencies

Panel breakup

Moderator- Dr. Dimple Bahl | Associate Professor - Design, National Institute of Fashion Technology

Panelists- Purnima Rai | Former President, Delhi Crafts Council

Padma Shri Laila Tyabji | Founder, Dastkar - A Society for Crafts & Craftspeople



Inclusion &
circularity

Co-host

H&M FOUNDATION



Scaling green entrepreneurship

Co-host H&M FOUNDATION

Key takeaways

Engaging youth is crucial for effective climate action, as their involvement is vital for environmental sustainability

Many green entrepreneurs are tech-savvy young individuals seeking better lives for themselves and their communities, highlighting a trend in scalability

Long-term livelihood improvements require training and upskilling to be complemented by solutions that address both the supply and demand sides

Empowering youth as change catalysts requires a blended approach that develops skills and provides capital for green enterprises

Panel breakup

Moderator- Anjum Khalidi | Senior Director of Development, BOMA

Panelists- Arpit Sharma | CEO, Green Jobs Sector Skill Council

Madam Lynett | Deputy Director, Department of Social Protection, Government of Kenya

Sam Owilly | CEO, BOMA

Shivi Sheoraan | Country Liason Manager, IKEA Foundation

Venkat Kotamaraju | Director, Circular Apparel Innovation Factory, Intellectap



Tech 4
good

charcha



AI
Innovation



Empowering leadership through AI for good: gen AI masterclass

Co-host Google

Key takeaways

AI influences all sectors, including energy, healthcare, and agriculture, creating opportunities to enhance work across various functions

Responsible AI encompasses fairness, accountability, explainability, and transparency

Developing AI inclusively and responsibly is crucial for engaging audiences in a personalized and meaningful manner

Trust in AI systems is a significant barrier for enterprises, but applying responsible AI principles and utilizing diverse, continually improving data can mitigate this challenge

Panel breakup

Panelists- Suchit Puri | Head of AI Solutions, Google Cloud
Dr. Amruta Joshi | AI Director, Google Cloud



Women
empowerment

change

India's largest collaborative convening



Women breaking barriers for
women: livelihood, equity, &
social justice

Co-host  TEAMWORK
CELEBRATING THE BEST

Key takeaways

Empowerment is claimed, not given; women must actively assert their power and engage with challenges persistently

Women face fewer opportunities to fail than men and failure should be viewed as part of innovation; funders need to support women's failures

The workplace lacks trust rather than innovation or funding, with a crisis of imagination preventing rural girls and women from being seen as leaders

Diversity and inclusion require "patience capital," emphasizing a long-term commitment to growth and career development for women

Panel breakup

Moderator- Nishtha Gautam | Author & Academic

Panelists- Sampat Devi | Founder, Gulabi Gang

Surabhi Yadav | Founder & CEO, Sajhe Sapne

Pooja Pande | Co-CEO, Chambal Media

Day 2

21st August, 2024

Acchi naukri	43
AI for societal transformation <i>Tech 4 good</i>	45
Navigating effective data management in social impact landscape <i>Data & impact</i>	47
Unleashing potential: empowering all abilities in livelihoods <i>Inclusion & circularity</i>	49
Leadership as the lever for catalytic social impact <i>Talent & capacity</i>	51
Leveraging collaboration for bold-bet philanthropic action <i>Capital & philanthropy</i>	53
Narrative shapers: media mavericks & stories of impact <i>Urban & rural livelihood</i>	55
AI in governance: promise, practicalities & path forward <i>Policy & governance</i>	57



Day 2

21st August, 2024

Direct cash transfers in India - landscape and enablers to scale <i>Inclusion & circularity</i>	59
To save a song <i>Urban livelihood</i>	61
Adopting AI for social good : challenges & opportunities <i>Tech 4 good</i>	63
Digital inclusion for viksit bharat @ 100 <i>Tech 4 good</i>	65
Powering together: shaping systems and approaches to work for communities, by communities <i>Communities & collaboratives</i>	67
Bridging the gap: digital pathways for young women <i>Women empowerment</i>	69
Scaling impact through tech <i>Social entrepreneurship</i>	71
Weaving legacies: Indian handlooms with industry pioneers <i>Rural livelihood</i>	73





Acchi naukri

Opening Plenary

Key takeaways

India's job creation potential lies in combining manufacturing with engineering and design, aiming for high-quality employment

Shifting from job-seeking to job creation is essential, as small and medium businesses can significantly multiply job opportunities

Strategic focus on AI development in areas where India excels can drive substantial economic growth

Empowering individuals to become job creators can enhance overall employment and economic resilience

Panel breakup

Moderator- Parikshit Luthra | Chief of Bureau, CNBC TV18

Panelists- Padma Bhushan Ajai Chowdhry | Co-Founder, HCL Tech

Pramod Bhasin | Founder & Former CEO, Genpact

Sailee Chahal | Founder, Mahila Money



Tech 4
good

Co-host

Google



AI for societal transformation

Co-host Google

Key takeaways

Inclusion goes beyond access to services; unbiased technology can inspire and motivate by eliminating judgment

To empower local entrepreneurs, we need technology for better seed infusion, along with capital and investments to support their growth and risk-taking

Transformation happens when existing connections are disrupted and reformed, leading to new value chains and opportunities

Transformation is inevitable, with technology serving as the primary catalyst for change

Panel breakup

Keynote speaker- Hon'ble MoS (IC) Jayant Chaudhary | Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Govt. of India

Moderator- Ram Papatla | GM & India Engineering Lead, Google India

Panelists- Thampy Koshy | Managing Director & CEO, ONDC

Ireena Vittal | Independent Director, HDFC, Godrej Consumer, Wipro, Compass, Tata Global Beverages & others

Dr. Chintan Vaishnav | Mission Director - Atal Innovation Mission, NITI Aayog

Shankar Maruwada | Co- Founder & CEO, Ek Step



Data &
impact



Navigating effective data management in social impact landscape

Co-host  **NuSocia**
Impact. Evident.

Key takeaways

Privacy laws like the DPDP Act and informed consent promote responsible data use through effective data lifecycle management

AI and open-source tools enhance data collection and analysis, while training is vital for accurate data handling and social impact

Collaboration among organizations is essential to improve data sharing, reduce redundancies, and maximize social impact

Panel breakup

Moderator- Dr. Manju Menon | CEO, NuSocia

Panelists- Dr. Sarayu Natarajan | Founder, Aapti Institute

Aditi Namdeo | Director, Strategic Initiatives, J-PAL

Rahul Kulkarni | Chief Technologist, Samagra



Inclusion &
circularity

ICCTA

Best collaborative convening



Unleashing potential: empowering all abilities in livelihoods

Co-host  STATE
STREET.

Key takeaways

India's disability population of over 10 crore represents a significant talent pool, making it essential for businesses to engage this sector to achieve a developed India

True accessibility requires more than ramps; implementing Section 40 of the RPWD Act is crucial for integrating the disabled population, which forms a substantial consumer base

The main issue lies not in the number of people with disabilities but in limiting perceptions that hinder recognition of their potential and abilities

Panel breakup

Keynote speaker- Rajesh Aggarwal- IAS | Secretary Dept. of Empowerment of PwD, Govt.of India

Moderator- Mallikarjuna lytha | Founder, IDEA

Panelists- Sunil Pahilajani | CEO, UniProducts (India) Ltd

Alina Alam | Founder, Mitti Cafe

Dr. Meenu Bhambhani | VP & Senior Grants Manager-APAC, State Street Corporation



Talent &
capacity

charcha

India's largest collaborative convening



Leadership as the lever for catalytic social impact

Co-host



INDIA
LEADERS
FOR
SOCIAL
SECTOR

Key takeaways

Ethical data management, privacy, and lifecycle understanding are essential for informed social impact decisions

Nation-building requires changing society, imagination, and collective values, which begins with changing individual mindsets and adopting a selfless service attitude

For personal and organizational growth in the social sector, self-awareness, feedback, learning from mistakes, and balancing empathy with critical thinking are key

The use of both qualitative and quantitative data is crucial for informed decision-making in the social impact space

Panel breakup

Lightning Talk- Vishal Kumar | CEO, Waste Warriors

Moderator- Archana Ramachandran | COO, Indian Leaders for Social Sector

Panelists- Ishmeet Singh | Senior V.P. & Lead, Digital Bharat Collaborative, Piramal Foundation

Gayathri Nair Lobo | CEO, ATE Chandra Foundation

Ruchee Anand | Senior Director- Talent & Learning Solutions, LinkedIn

Surabhi Bikhchandani | Partner, Quadrangle

Anu Prasad | Founder & CEO, India Leaders for Social Sector



Capital &
philanthropy

charcha

India's largest collaborative convening



Leveraging collaboration for bold-bet philanthropic action

Co-host 
The Bridgespan Group

Key takeaways

India's ecosystem comprises multi-stakeholder collaborations involving funders, nonprofits, government departments, CSR initiatives and other entities working together

India is reaping the benefits of collaborative initiatives, but it has yet to fully institutionalize these efforts, particularly in terms of securing adequate funding

Collaboration presents challenges that require significant effort at each stage to be effective

Long-term social change depends on diverse partners contributing various human, financial, and network resources rather than focusing on individual initiatives

Panel breakup

Moderator- Pritha Venkatachalam | Partner & Co-Head-Asia & Africa, The Bridgespan Group

Panelists- Dr. Vanita Sharma | Head, Reliance CSR

Pooja Nanda | Head of Women's Livelihood Vertical, Mahindra Group

Kurush Irani | President Group CSR, Bajaj Finserv

Karthik Srinivasan | Director of Programme Excellence, CIFF



Urban & rural
livelihood



Narrative shapers: media mavericks & stories of impact

Co-host  **TEAMWORK**
CELEBRATING THE BEST

Key takeaways

Violence is so normalized and glamorized in mainstream films that it takes extreme portrayals to elicit any reaction, reducing real-life tragedies to mere statistics

Cinema can humanize characters, fostering empathy through shared emotions like fear instead of glorifying violence

Films should explore the aftermath of violence—hopelessness, anger, and loneliness—rather than depicting the act itself

Stories subtly shape perceptions and responses to societal issues, reflecting their significant yet often unconscious influence on audiences

Panel breakup

Moderator- Sanjoy Roy | Managing Director, Teamwork Arts

Panelists- Amish Tripathi | Author

Nandita Das | Actor & Director

Rajshri Deshpande | Actor & Social Worker

Zainab Patel | India ABO DE&I Leader, Cummins Inc.



Policy &
governance

largest collaborative convening



AI in governance: promise, practicalities & path forward

Co-host  **Samagra**
Transforming Governance

Key takeaways

A major challenge in implementing new technology is ensuring data quality and standardization

AI tools can expedite government decision-making for routine tasks like loan and grant approvals, reducing delays and discrepancies

The primary objective is to develop AI in India, tailored for India, while also benefiting the global community

Panel breakup

Moderator- Rahul Kulkarni | Chief Technologist, Samagra

Panelists- Metesh Bhati | Chief Digital Officer, Protean eGov Technologies Ltd.

Pragya Misra | Public Policy & Partnerships Lead, OpenAI

Jayesh Ranjan - IAS | Special Chief Secretary- IT, I&C, Govt. of Telangana

Abhishek Singh- IAS | Additional Secretary MeitY, CEO Karamyogi Bharat, Govt. of India



Inclusion &
circularity



Direct cash transfers in India: landscape & enablers to scale

Co-host  **TINY MIRACLES**

Key takeaways

DCTs effectively alleviate poverty, foster economic stability, and empower individuals through unconditional financial support

Digital innovations enhance the reach and efficiency of DCTs in marginalized communities, improving access to government programs

Partnerships between governments and philanthropists ensure successful DCT implementation, sustainability, and long-term impact

Experimentation and studies are essential to evaluate the fiscal sustainability and socio-economic effects of large-scale cash transfer programs

Panel breakup

Moderator- Pankhuri Shah | Co-Founder, Project Deep

Panelists- Murugan Vasudevan | CEO, Veddis Foundation

L K Atheeq - IAS | Additional Chief Secretary Finance Department, Govt. of Karnataka

Padma Shri Renana Jhabvala | President, SEWA Bharat



Urban
livelihood



To save a song

Co-host  **TEAMWORK**
CELEBRATING THE BEST

Key takeaways

Preserving traditional music requires teamwork, reinterpretation, and adaptability to stay culturally relevant

Music education should focus on technical skills, empathy, ethics, and respect for original work to prepare students for real-world challenges

Independent artists must empower themselves and innovate distribution methods while balancing authenticity with technology

Artists play a vital role in advocating for ethical practices and societal change, using their platforms to address injustices in the music community

Panel breakup

Moderator- Sarthak Kaushik | Broadcaster & Radio Jockey

Panelists- Aneesh Pradhan | Performer & Author
Padma Shri Shubha Mudgal | Musician



Tech 4
good



Adopting AI for social good: challenges & opportunities

Co-host  **PURPOSE**

Key takeaways

Regulatory bodies set ethical standards for AI development, ensuring alignment with societal values and addressing issues like privacy and fairness

Policymakers enforce AI laws to mitigate risks, assess data security, and ensure systems operate legally

Developing contact tracing apps requires prioritizing data privacy through anonymization techniques to build public trust

Community participation empowers individuals by giving them a voice in the AI development process and enabling ongoing feedback for refinement

Panel breakup

Moderator- Mandira K Kalaan | Senior Director and Head of Office, Purpose India

Panelists- Alpan Raval | Chief Scientist, AI/ML, Wadhvani Institute for Artificial Intelligence

Dr. Sarayu Natarajan | Founder, Aapti Institute

Arpita Kanjilal | Manager, Digital Empowerment Foundation

Apar Gupta | Law Office of Apar Gupta



Tech 4
good

Co-host

Google



Digital inclusion for Viksit Bharat@100

Co-host Google

Key takeaways

Government-created public goods have significantly advanced financial inclusion, as seen in increased transaction volumes and supporting infrastructure

The digital divide between urban and rural poor remains, with an even wider gap in access and usage among women, especially in digital payments

Achieving inclusion through technology necessitates strong collaboration as a critical success factor

Addressing digital policy and public infrastructure from a feminist perspective is vital, as studies indicate that digital interventions in rural India have a multifaceted impact when women are the primary beneficiaries

Panel breakup

Moderator- Megna Sankaranarayanan | Head of Industry- Fintech, Google

Panelists- Deep Kalra | Founder & Group CEO, MakeMyTrip

Dr. Kalpana Viswanath | Co-Founder & CEO, Safetipin

Manish Thakkar | COO, Avanti Finance

Osama Manzar | Founder & Director, Digital Empowerment Foundation

Vivek Pandit | COO, Generation India Foundation



Communities &
collaboratives

charcha

India's largest collaborative convening



Powering together: shaping
systems & approaches to work for
communities, by communities

Co-host 
The Bridgespan Group

Key takeaways

Educating women is invaluable, as even those with limited education gain legal knowledge and feel empowered to demand their rights

Community-driven change empowers people to speak their thoughts, creating more leaders and a sense of ownership

Community participation is crucial for program scalability, as ownership leads to greater engagement and effective implementation

Building trust by addressing urgent needs demonstrates commitment and enables deeper collaborations through partnerships

Panel breakup

Moderator- Pritha Venkatachalam | Partner & Co-Head-Asia & Africa, The Bridgespan Group

Panelists- Upmanyu Patil | Director -Programs, Swayam Shikshan Prayog -SSP

Murugan Vasudevan | CEO, Veddis Foundation

Mangesh Wange | CEO, Swades Foundation

Pradeep Sharma | Partner, Sattva Consulting

Anantika Singh | Lead- Portfolio and Partnerships, Hindustan Unilever Foundation



Women
empowerment

charcha

India's largest collaborative convening



Bridging the gap : digital pathways for young women

Co-host  British Asian Trust

Key takeaways

Including women in the workforce could boost India's GDP by 27%

Mentoring is vital for young women in technology, as seeing successful role models ignites their ambition

The main barrier for young women in tech is a lack of advocacy and support, not ability; they need encouragement to pursue their aspirations

Meaningful digital use can help women overcome social barriers, especially when tied to economic independence

Panel breakup

Moderator- Yasmin Riaz | Head of Development, British Asian Trust

Panelists- Ishvinder Singh | Lead – NetAcad and Skills, Cisco

Natasha Jog | Head-Public Policy, Meta India

Shruti Das | CCO, Nasscom Foundation

Arundhuti Gupta | Founder & CEO, Mentor Together

Ian McBride | Head of Digital Impact & Sustainability, India, BT Group



Social
entrepreneurship



Scaling impact through tech

Co-host  Meta

Key takeaways

From a technologist's perspective, most social problems do not have purely technological solutions

The social sector does not lack tech capacity; it has minimal-to-no tech capacity

Recent advancements in low-code and no-code open-source technologies have empowered organizations, including those in the social sector, to develop solutions without extensive programming expertise

Panel breakup

Fireside Conversation: Kruti Bharucha | CEO, Peepul
Kailash Nadh | CTO, Zerodha



Tech for Good



Social Entrepreneurship



Venture Philanthropy



Policy & Governance



Rural livelihood

Livelihood

Co-host



Weaving legacies: Indian handlooms with industry pioneers

Key takeaways

Garments embody unique stories tied to personal and familial histories, enhancing appreciation for textiles beyond aesthetics

A risk-free environment with advanced payments and buyback options provides security, allowing individuals to focus on creativity and innovation

As consumers prioritize modern trends over identity markers, adapting design approaches becomes essential

Ongoing exploration in design is crucial to meet the evolving needs of users effectively

Panel breakup

Moderator- Sanjoy K. Roy | Managing Director, Teamwork Arts

Panelists- David Abraham | Co-Founder, Abraham & Thakore

Meera Goradia | Co-Chair, Creative Dignity

Pavithra Muddaya | Co-Founder, VIMOR

Sooraj Bhat | CEO – Ethnic Business, Aditya Birla Fashion & Retail Ltd

Day 3

22nd August, 2024

Viksit gaon, viksit bharat	77
Clearer vision, brighter futures: addressing the presbyopia gap <i>Inclusion & circularity</i>	79
Imagining tomorrow: scaling regenerative agriculture for a sustainable India <i>Rural livelihood</i>	81
Language as the first step for the last mile <i>Rural livelihood</i>	83
Farming the future: what will it take to secure livelihoods & drive inclusion for smallholder farmers? <i>Communities & collaboratives</i>	85



Day 3

22nd August, 2024

Is enterprise the entire prize? <i>Rural livelihood</i>	87
Sunsetting extreme vulnerability: institutionalising economic inclusion for the rural poor <i>Rural livelihood</i>	89
Voices from the ground: scaling EIP across states <i>Rural livelihood</i>	91
Water security and livelihoods: collaborative strategies for sustainable futures <i>Communities & collaboratives</i>	93
AI: friend or foe?	95





Viksit gaon, viksit bharat

Opening Plenary

Key takeaways

Addressing global issues requires an integrated approach, harnessing rural India's economic potential beyond a poverty-centric view

Collective ownership and decentralized models are vital for resilient rural economies, driven by empowered local governance

Elevating rural productivity depends on comprehensive skilling, entrepreneurship, government coordination, and financial access

Strengthening microenterprises, especially women's entrepreneurship, is essential for economic resilience through focused support and regulatory reforms

Panel breakup

Keynote speaker- Atul Kumar Tiwari- IAS | Secretary Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Govt. of India

Moderator- Atul Satija | Founder & CEO, The/Nudge Institute

Panelists- Arun Maira | Former Chairman, BCG
Padma Shri Renana Jhabvala | President, SEWA Bharat
Vijay Mahajan | Founder, Basix, Pradan



Inclusion &
circularity



Clearer vision, brighter futures:
addressing the presbyopia gap

Co-host **THE/NUDGE**
INSTITUTE

Key takeaways

Accessing affordable eyeglasses in rural areas is challenging, often requiring travel to urban centers, incurring additional costs and lost wages

Task sharing in primary care allows health workers to conduct vision screenings and dispense reading glasses, enhancing maternal health services

Eyeglasses serve as a livelihood and road safety intervention, essential for effective learning, work productivity, and safe navigation

Integrating eyeglasses into community touchpoints, like crop input stores, can significantly improve access for farmers and drivers needing clear vision

Panel breakup

Keynote speaker- Dr. Indu Bhushan - IAS | Former-CEO, Ayushman Bharat

Moderator- Amit Gupta | COO, The/Nudge Institute

Panelists- Abigail Steinberg | Executive Director, Livelihood Impact Fund

Ella Gudwin | Global CEO, VisionSpring

Narasimha Narayanan | President, EssilorLuxottica South Asia.

Peyush Bansal | Founder, Lenskart



Rural
livelihood

Pracha

largest collaborative convening



Imagining tomorrow: scaling
regenerative agriculture for a
sustainable India

Key takeaways

Farming is high-risk, requiring affordable capital and better access to effective insurance, including parametric options, to address inadequate climate-related protections

Farmers are increasingly using digital tools like Google, YouTube, weather apps, and pest identification apps, showing a growing reliance on technology to tackle climate challenges

Certification should evolve into an integrated data management system that includes extension services, credit access, and carbon financing, with the Government of India actively developing a platform

Panel breakup

Moderator- Prachur Goel | Director, Socratus

Panelists- Jasmer Dhingra | Director, Program, IDH

Minhaj Ameen | Director of Strategic Operations, Finance and Administration, Agroecology Fund

Namita Singh | Director, User Experience, Digital Green

Dr. GV Ramanjaneyulu | Director, Centre for Sustainable Agriculture



Rural
livelihood

charcha

India's largest collaborative conveni



Language as the first step for the last mile

Co-host **TATA STEEL FOUNDATION**

Key takeaways

The shift to modern technology has led young mothers to favour digital content over traditional oral practices, risking cultural erosion

Language connects marginalized communities to opportunities and identity but can also create exclusion, hindering innovation from those outside mainstream conversations

Understanding local languages improves learning outcomes for children and highlights the economic disadvantages faced by individuals who struggle with language barriers, leading to potential financial losses

Panel breakup

Moderator- Jiren Xavier Topno, Head Tribal Identity, Tata Steel Foundation

Panelists- Shiv Shankar Kandeyong | Manager, Tribal Languages, Tata Steel Foundation
Bangwang Losu | Recipient, Samvaad Fellowship 2017
Amabel Susngi | Recipient, Samvaad Fellowship 2021



Rural
livelihood

charcha

India's largest collaborative convening



Farming the future: what will it
take to secure livelihoods & drive
inclusion for smallholder farmers?

Co-host



Key takeaways

The development sector often struggles to listen, approaching communities with predetermined solutions in a top-down manner rather than understanding their needs

Technology solutions struggle to gain farmers' acceptance but become more relatable when presented by trusted individuals

Experimenting with technology for smallholder farmers poses a high risk. Strong support from FPOs and programs is essential for effectiveness and adoption

Panel breakup

Moderator- Krishnan Hariharan | Senior Practice Leader, TechnoServe

Panelists- Aparna Bijapurkar | Managing Director & Partner, BCG

Chetna Gala Sinha | Founder & Chairperson, Mann Deshi Bank and Mann Deshi Foundation

Dipanwita Chakraborty | Regional Director CSR, APAC Cargill

Nishant Kumar | Head of Sustainability Flipkart Group, Social & Environmental Impact Advisor-
Walmart



Rural
livelihood



Is enterprise the entire prize?

Co-host **TATA STEEL FOUNDATION**

Key takeaways

Economic independence alone cannot effectively tackle deeper societal challenges like domestic violence, even for working women

While money and enterprise enhance lives, their impact on society, communities, and traditions must be considered for true equality beyond just financial aspects

Women's market participation inspires them to revive traditional crafts using local materials, creating valuable products while preserving cultural identity

Panel breakup

Moderator- Smita Verma | Lead Gender and Community Enterprise, Tata Steel Foundation

Panelists- Malti Singh | Social Changemaker

Deepantri Sardar | Former Mukhiya, Tetla Panchayat & Social Change Maker

Dwipanita Rabha | Fellow, Tribal Leadership Program 2022



Rural
livelihood

John
The Knowledge Institute

Adam Lynett
Ochiama
Dept. of Extension,
Govt. of Kenya

Sam O'Neill
ICRAF

Shobhini Mukerji
ICRAF

Shweta Banerjee
ICRAF

Anjali Kumar
Singh
ICRAF

BILL & MELINDA
GATES foundation

chorcha



Sunsetting extreme vulnerability: institutionalising economic inclusion for the rural poor

Co-host BILL & MELINDA
GATES foundation

Key takeaways

Simplifying design enhances operational excellence by reducing the cognitive load on field staff, enabling better focus on coaching and support

Continuous process monitoring provides valuable insights, helping stakeholders identify gaps and make real-time adjustments for improved outcomes

Unbundling interventions lead to more adaptable and cost-effective poverty alleviation strategies tailored to specific contexts and needs

Panel breakup

Moderator- Anjani K Singh | Senior Program Officer, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

Panelists- John Paul | Senior Director, The/Nudge Institute

Madam Lynett | Deputy Director Department of Social Protection, Government of Kenya

Sam Owilly | CEO, BOMA

Shobhini Mukerji | Executive Director, J-PAL

Shweta Banerjee | Country Lead, BRAC



Rural
livelihood

Co-host

BILL & MELINDA
GATES *foundation*



Voices from the ground: scaling EIP across states

Co-host BILL & MELINDA
GATES *foundation*

Key takeaways

Transformational change occurs at three levels: being, knowing, and doing, which build confidence and capabilities over time

Scaling Economic Inclusion Programs (EIP) for marginalized communities requires understanding their needs through coordinated interventions to increase incomes and assets

Tools like participatory wealth ranking and poverty assessments help identify community disparities and target physical and financial capital effectively

Recognizing the importance of commons is essential for ecological restoration, creating economic opportunities for the poor, and promoting social justice

Panel breakup

Moderator- Sreya Mozumdar | Director- National Partnerships, The/Nudge Institute

Panelists- Subrata Singh | Executive Director, Foundational for Ecological Security (FES)

Saroj Mahapatra | Executive Director, PRADAN

Sushant Verma | Asia Regional Director, Trickle Up Inc.

Dr. Marcella D'Souza | Director, WOTR Centre for Resilience Studies (W-CReS)



Communities &
collaboratives

charcha

India's largest collaborative convening



Water security & livelihoods:
collaborative strategies for
sustainable futures

Co-host



Key takeaways

Community engagement is essential for revitalizing water bodies, integrating local knowledge and needs into management strategies

Technological innovations enhance water management by offering tools for monitoring quality and availability, promoting efficient resource use

Rehabilitation of local water bodies improves agricultural productivity through better irrigation systems, boosting crop yields and food security

Sustainable solutions to rural distress must enhance water access and contribute to the socio-economic well-being of communities facing water scarcity

Panel breakup

Moderator- Gayathri Nair Lobo | CEO, ATE Chandra Foundation

Panelists- Prasanna Khemariya | CEO, Srijan

Sunil Chavan - IAS | Former Secretary, Soil and Water Conservation Dept., Govt. of Maharashtra

Vinod Kulkarni | CSR Head, TATA Motors

India's largest collaborative convening

co-hosts



AI: friend or foe?

Closing Plenary

Key takeaways

The rise of AI automation raises concerns about job losses, prompting discussions on the future of work and obsolete employment

AI can enhance human abilities by providing insights and analytics, improving decision-making in fields like healthcare

AI systems may introduce biases and discrimination, along with data privacy concerns, emphasizing the need for ethical guidelines

AI technologies can tackle complex global challenges, such as climate change and resource management, through data-driven solutions for efficiency and sustainability

Panel breakup

Moderator- Guru Bhat | Senior Director - Engineering, Google

Panelists- Anjali Bansal | Founder & Chairperson, Avaana Group

Neelam Dhawan | Independent Director, Hindustan Unilever Ltd.

Sharad Sharma | Co-Founder & CEO, iSPIRT

Umakant Soni | Co-Founder, AI Foundry

The power of convening



Dr. Chintan Vaishnav

Mission Director - AIM
NITI Aayog

“ These kinds of events are catalytic for building the ecosystem. They're important because most people worth inviting to such events often have no time to attend. Creating a venue where they can come together can spark many interesting ideas, acting as a force multiplier.

“

I got more educated, more enlightened and I suddenly got a lot of energy sitting in these sessions (at charcha). It let's you step back & realise some of the problems we are facing as India & the work we need to do.



Peyush Bansal

Co-Founder & CEO
Lenskart



Puneet Chandok

President
Microsoft India

“ Conversation like charcha are important because they bring all stakeholders together & begin an honest dialogue on how we can come together and solve some of the biggest problems in India to move the country forward

The power of convening



Shankar Maruwada
Co-Founder
EkStep

“The social sector in India is at a tipping point, with a lot of young, talented individuals stepping in to solve the many diverse problems we face. Convenings like this allow organizations to connect with each other, individuals to engage with one another and be inspired. The more we converse, the more we connect, the better it is for each one of us, and better it is for billions of citizens we are trying to serve.”



I am absolutely thrilled to be at charcha. I have never had so many inspiring conversations.



Meg Garlinghouse
VP Social Impact
LinkedIn



Deepali Khanna
VP - Asia Regional Office
The Rockefeller Foundation

“charcha is really important because we need to bring different actors together—what I call the “unusual actors.” They generally do not come together to share what they are doing and learn from each other. So, you create a platform for these unusual actors to get inspired, connect, and hopefully co-invest and collaborate, driving towards scalable solutions.”

The power of convening



Guru Bhat

Senior Director - Engineering
Google

“ The best part of charcha for me has been the ability and opportunity to interact with a lot of people. They are a diverse set of experiences, a diverse set of problem statements and solutions, perspectives that I don't often encounter in my workplace. So the fact that I am able to find this at a convening like charcha is very inspiring, it's thought-provoking, and it opens up my mind to a million possibilities that exist in how we can bring about really good solutions for the planet.

“

Convenings of decent people with good intentions and skills have always been important for thousands of years—that's how history has moved forward: through conversations. Like charcha, any convening of good people, where they come together and engage in rational discourse, is important.



Kailash Nadh
CTO Zerodha



Madam Lynett Ochuma

Deputy Director, Dept. of Social
Protection, Govt. of Kenya

“ This is a global event and I was able to meet people from different sectors, people with different expertise. When we meet we are able to identify areas where we can leverage, where we can develop synergies and where we can also have partnerships. Through this, I've been able to network, I've been able to identify partners whom I can work with, which is very good for development.

The power of convening



Chetna Gala Sinha
Founder & Chairperson
Mann Deshi Bank
and Mann Deshi Foundation

charcha has always been about coming back to meet people in the sector. There's so much to learn from each other, and that's why I like this platform. We talk about mainstream issues, which are important.



I always believe that when we come together for these kinds of activities, we expand the realm of knowledge, help people collaborate with each other, and stimulate new thoughts and ideas.



Thampy Koshy
Managing Director & CEO
ONDC



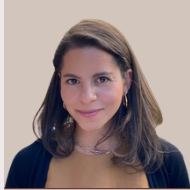
Jayesh Ranjan (IAS)
Special Chief Secretary
- IT, I&C Govt. of
Telangana

So, by and large, this is how events (charcha) need to be curated. You bring different stakeholders together and, make each of them understand that everyone has the potential of doing something which you can complement to your own efforts

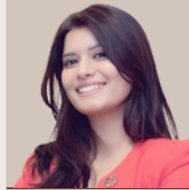
Speakers



Abhishek Singh
(IAS)
Additional Secretary
MeitY
GOI



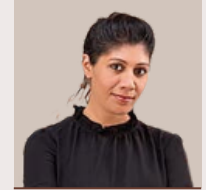
Abigail Steinberg
Executive Director
Livelihood Impact Fund



Aditi Namdeo
Director-Strategic
Initiatives, J-PAL



Aditi Jha
Board Director &
Country Head:
Legal & Gov. Affairs
LinkedIn



Ajaita Shah
Founder,
Frontier Markets



Akshay Soni
Managing Partner
The/Nudge Institute



Alina Alam
Founder
Mitti Cafe



Aloka Majumdar
MD, Global Head of
Philanthropy & Head of
Sustainability, India
HSBC



Alpan Raval
Chief Scientist - AI/ML
Wadhvani Institute of
Artificial Intelligence



Amabel Susngi
Recipient
Samvaad Fellowship
2021



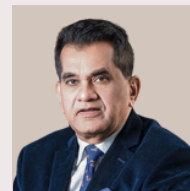
Amish Tripathi
Author



Amit Yadav (IAS)
Secretary - Dept. of
Social Justice
& Empowerment



Amit Gupta
COO
The/Nudge Institute



Amitabh Kant (IAS)
G20 Sherpa
GOI



Amrita Mishra
Co-Founder
DarkChocoBitz



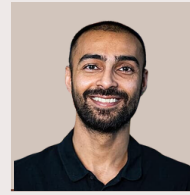
Anant Bhagwati
Partner
The Bridgespan Group



Anantika Singh
Lead - Portfolio & Partnerships
HUL Foundation



Aneesh Pradhan
Performer & Author



Anish Malpani
Founder
Without (by Ashaya)



Anjali Bansal
Founder & Chairperson
Avaana Group



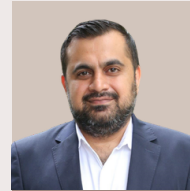
Anjali R. Kumar
Chief Sustainability Officer
Zomato



Anjani K. Singh
Sr. Program Officer
BMGF



Anjum Khalidi
Sr. Director of Development
BOMA



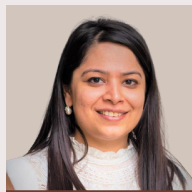
Ankur Batra
Vice President,
Business Development
Generation India Foundation



Anu Prasad
Founder & CEO
ILSS



Apar Gupta
Law Office of
Apar Gupta



Aparajita Bharti
Founding Partner
TQH



Aparna Bijapurkar
MD & Partner
BCG



Aparna Dua
Director
The Blended Finance
Company



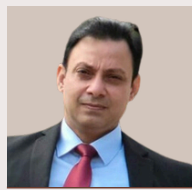
Archana Ramachandran
COO
ILSS



Archana Vyas
Director - Policy & Comms
BMGF



Arindom Datta
Senior Advisor &
Independent Director



Arpit Sharma
CEO
Green Jobs Sector Skill Council



Arpita Kanjilal
Manager
DEF



Arti Ahuja (IAS)
Former Secretary
MoLE
GOI



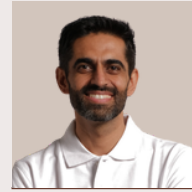
Arun Maira
Former Chairman
BCG



Arundhati Gupta
Founder & CEO
Mentor Together



Aruneesh Singh
CEO
Generation India Foundation



Atul Satija
Founder & CEO
The/Nudge Institute



**Atul Kumar
Tiwari (IAS)**
Secretary
MSDE, GOI



Bangwang Losu
Recipient
Samvaad Fellowship 2017



Chetna Gala Sinha
Founder & Chairperson
Mann Deshi Bank
& Mann Deshi Foundation



David Abraham
Co-Founder
Abraham & Thakore



Deep Kalra
Founder & Chairman
MakeMyTrip



Deepa Nagraj
Global Head of
Comm, ESG & CSR
Mphasis



Deepali Khanna
VP - Asia Regional Office
The Rockefeller Foundation



Deepantri Sardar
Former Mukhiya
Tetla Panchayat
& Social Change Maker



**Dipanwita
Chakraborty**
Regional Director- CSR
APAC Cargill



**Dwipanita
Rabha**
Fellow 2022
Tribal Leadership Program



**Dr. Amruta
Joshi**
AI Director
Google Cloud



**Dr. Archana
Patankar**
VP- Research &
Impact
NSDC



**Dr. Chintan
Vaishnav**
Mission Director - AIM
NITI Aayog



Dr. Dimple Bahl
Associate Professor-
Design, NIFT



**Dr. GV
Ramanjaneyulu**
Director
Centre for Sustainable Agriculture



**Dr. Indu
Bhusan (IAS)**
Former CEO
Ayushman Bharat



Dr. Kalpana Viswanath
Co-Founder & CEO
Safetipin



Dr. Manju Menon
CEO
NuSocia



Dr. Marcella D'Souza
Director
W-CReS



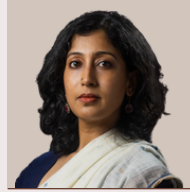
Dr. Meenu Bhambani
VP & Sr. Grants Manager –
APAC
State Street Corporation



Dr. R S Sharma (IAS)
Former CEO
NHA



Dr. Rishikesh Patankar
VP Govt. Programs
Division
NSDC



Dr. Sarayu Natarajan
Founder
Aapti Institute



Dr. Sejal Worah
Program Director
WWF- India



Dr. Vanita Sharma
Head
Reliance CSR



Ella Gudwin
Global CEO
VisionSpring



Faiz Ahmed Kidwai (IAS)
Additional Secretary-
MoA & FW
GOI



Gabriel Bordado
Skills Specialist
ILO



Gaurav Goel
Founder & CEO
Samagra



Gayathri Nair Lobo
CEO
ATE Chandra Foundation



Gayatri Divecha
Head Sustainability &
CSR
Godrej



Guru Bhat
Sr. Director - Engineering
Google



Himanshu Gupta (IAS)
Secretary
CBSE



Ian McBride
Head of Digital Impact &
Sustainability, India
BT Group



Indumathi
Waste Entrepreneur
DWCC



Iirena Vittal
Independent Director
HDFC, Godrej
Consumer, etc



Ishmeet Singh
Sr. VP Digital Bharat
Collaborative Piramal
Foundation



Ishvinder Singh
India Lead- NetAcad
& Skills
Cisco



Jasmer Dhingra
Director, Program
IDH



Jayant Chaudhary
Hon'ble MoS (IC) -
MSDE
GOI



Jayant Rastogi
Global CEO
Magic Bus India
Foundation



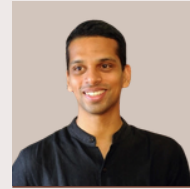
**Jayesh
Ranjan (IAS)**
Special Chief Secretary
- IT, I&C
Govt. of Telangana



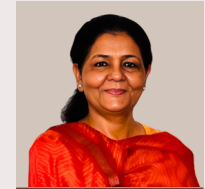
Jiren Xavier Topno
Head Tribal Identity
Tata Steel Foundation



John Paul
Sr. Director
The/Nudge Institute



Kailash Nadh
CTO
Zerodha



Kanta Singh
Deputy Representative
UN Women India



Karthik Srinivasan
Director of Programme
Excellence
CIFF



Krishnan Hariharan
Sr. Practice Leader
TechnoServe



Kruti Bharucha
CEO
Peepul



Kurush Irani
President Group CSR
Bajaj Finserv



LK Atheeque (IAS)
ACS Finance Department
Govt. of Karnataka



Lohit Bhatia
President
Workforce Management
Qness Corp



**Madam Lynett
Ochuma**
Deputy Director
Dept. of Social Protection,
Govt. of Kenya



**Mallikarjuna
lytha**
Founder
IDEA



Malti Singh
Social Changemaker



**Mandira Kalra
Kalaan**
Sr. Director & Head of Office
Purpose India



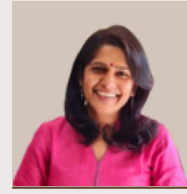
Mangesh Wange
CEO
Swades Foundation



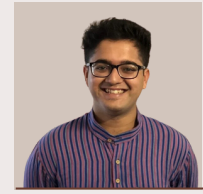
Manish Sabharwal
Vice Chairman
TeamLease



Manish Thakkar
COO
Avanti Finance



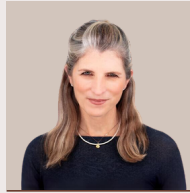
Manjula Singh
Executive Director -India
CIFF



Manu Chopra
Co-Founder
Karya



Meera Goradia
Co-Chair
Creative Dignity



Meg Garlinghouse
VP Social Impact
LinkedIn



Megna S
Head of Industry - Fintech
Google



Metesh Bhati
Chief Digital Officer
Protean eGov
Technologies Ltd.



Minhaj Ameen
Director
Agroecology Fund



Murugan Vasudevan
CEO
Veddis Foundation



Namita Singh
Director, User Experience
Digital Green



Nandita Das
Actor & Director



Narasimhan Narayanan
President
EssilorLuxottica South Asia



Natasha Jog
Head - Public Policy
Meta India



Neelam Dhawan
Independent Director
Hindustan Unilever Ltd.



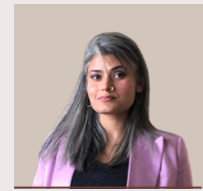
Neeti Sharma
CEO
TeamLease Digital



Nidhi Bhasin
CEO
Nasscom Foundation



Nishant Gupta
Head of Sustainability
Flipkart Group



Nishtha Gautam
Author & Academic



Osama Manzar
 Founder & Director
 DEF



**Padma Bhushan
 Ajai Chowdhry**
 Co-Founder - HCL Tech



**Padma Shri
 Laila Tyabji**
 Founder- Dastkar



**Padma Shri
 Shubha Mudgal**
 Musician



Pankhuri Shah
 Co-Founder
 Project Deep



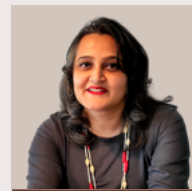
Parikshit Luthra
 Chief of Bureau
 CNBC TV18



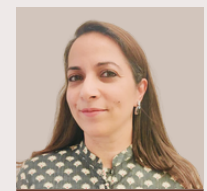
**Pavithra
 Muddaya**
 Co-Founder
 VIMOR



Peyush Bansal
 Co-Founder & CEO
 Lenskart



Pooja Pande
 Co-CEO
 Chambal Media



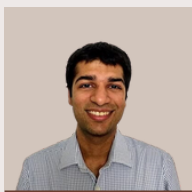
Pooja Nanda
 Head - Women's Livelihood
 Vertical
 Mahindra Group



**Pooja Sharma
 Goyal**
 Founding CEO
 Udaiti Foundation



Prabhakar L
 EVP & Head
 Social Investments
 ITC



Prachur Goel
 Director
 Socratus



Pradeep Sharma
 Partner
 Sattva Consulting



Pragya Misra
 Public Policy &
 Partnerships Lead
 OpenAI



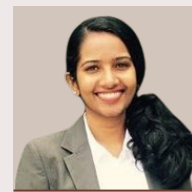
Pramod Bhasin
 Founder & Former CEO
 Genpact



**Prasanna
 Khemariya**
 CEO - Srijan



**Pritha
 Venkatachalam**
 Partner & Co-Head
 The Bridgespan Group



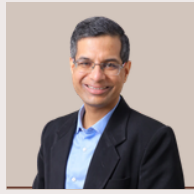
**Priyanka
 Yalamanchili**
 Global Monitoring & Evaluation
 Generation India



**Puneet
 Chandok**
 President
 Microsoft India



Purnima Rai
Former President
Delhi Crafts Council



Rahul Kulkarni
Chief Technologist
Samagra



Raj Gilda
Co-Founder
Lend-a-Hand India



Shri Rajesh Aggarwal (IAS)
Secretary- Dept. of
Empowerment of PWD



Rajshri Deshpande
Actor, Social Worker



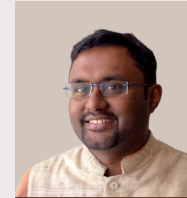
Ram Papatla
GM & India Engineering Lead
Google India



Renana Jhabvala
President
SEWA Bharat



Renu Sud Karnad
Former MD
HDFC



Romit Sen
Senior Vice President
-Sustainability
HSBC India



Ruchee Anand
Senior Director
Talent & Learning Solutions
LinkedIn



Sairee Chahal
Founder
Mahila Money



Sam Owilly
CEO
BOMA



Sampat Devi
Founder
Gulabi Gang



Sanjoy K Roy
MD
Teamwork Arts



Saroj Mahapatra
Executive Director
PRADAN



Sarthak Kaushik
Broadcaster &
Radio Jockey



Shagun Sabarwal
Regional Director for Asia
Co-Impact



Shankar Maruwada
Co-Founder
EkStep



Sharad Sharma
Co-Founder & CEO
iSPIRT Foundation



Sharon Buteau
Executive Director
KREA University



Shekhar Gupta
 Founder
 ThePrint



**Shiv Shankar
 Kandeyong**
 Manager, Tribal Languages
 Tata Steel Foundation



Shivani Gupta
 Co-CEO
 Womanity



Shivi Sheoraan
 Country Liaison Manager
 IKEA Foundation



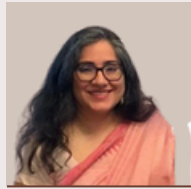
**Shobhini
 Mukerji**
 Executive Director
 J-PAL



Shriya Sethi
 Director
 Centre for Social Impact
 McKinsey & Co.



Shruti Das
 Chief Comms. Officer
 Nasscom Foundation



**Shweta
 Banerjee**
 Country Lead
 BRAC



Smita Verma
 Lead - Gender &
 Community Enterprise
 Tata Steel Foundation



Sooraj Bhat
 CEO - Ethnic Business
 Aditya Birla Fashion &
 Retail Ltd.



**Sreya
 Mozumdar**
 Director-
 National Partnerships
 The/Nudge Institute



Sriram V
 MD Partnerships
 The/Nudge Institute



Subrata Singh
 Executive Director
 Foundation for
 Ecological Security (FES)



Suchit Puri
 Head of AI Solutions
 Google Cloud



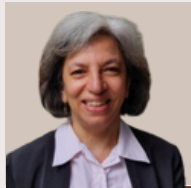
Sunil Chavan (IAS)
 Former Secretary
 Govt of Maharashtra



Sunil Dahiya
 Exec. VP Skilling
 Wadhvani Foundation



Sunil Pahilajani
 CEO
 UniProducts (India) Ltd



**Surabhi
 Bikhchandani**
 Partner
 Quadrangle



Surabhi Yadav
 Founder & CEO
 Sajhe Sapne



Suresh Bala
 Treasurer
 Varsha Self-Help Group
 Alwar, Rajasthan



Sushant Verma
Asia Regional Director
Trickle Up Inc.



Thampy Koshy
Managing Director & CEO
ONDC



Umakant Soni
Co-Founder
AI Foundry



Upmanyu Patil
Director Programs
Swayam Shikshan Prayog (SSP)



Vandana Bahri
Head- GIRL Capital
CIFF



Varun Khaitan
Co-Founder
Urban Company



**Venkat
Kotamaraju**
Director, Circular Apparel
Innovation Factory,
Intellectap



Vijay Mahajan
Founder
Basix, Pradan



Vimala. R (IAS)
State Project Director
Samagra Shiksha
(Maharashtra)



Vinod Kulkarni
CSR Head
TATA Motors



Vishal Chowla
Roundglass Foundation



Vishal Kumar
CEO
Waste Warriors



Vivek Pandit
COO
Generation India



Yasmin Riaz
Head of Development
British Asian Trust



Zainab Patel
India ABO
DE&I Leader
Cummins Inc.

charcha: Journey so far

Since 2020, charcha has emerged as India's pre-eminent livelihood convening, uniting visionaries and change makers from government, civil society and markets, and fostering conversations and collaborations towards creating resilient livelihoods.

Collaboration

- CSRs, foundations
- Govt. policymakers
- Civil society orgs.

Inspiration

- Thought Leaders
- Changemakers
- Social entrepreneurs

Insights

- Workshops
- Panels
- Masterclasses

5

editions

30+

co-hosts

1000+

speakers

15000+

participants



Thank you for being a part of charcha

We look forward to seeing you again at charcha'25 from 12-14 Nov 2025