



PUNE INTERNATIONAL CENTRE



NATIONAL CONFERENCE
ON SOCIAL INNOVATION

13th National Conference on

SOCIAL INNOVATION



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13 Years of NCSI



CONFERENCES
13



TOTAL
FINALISTS
303



TOTAL
APPLICATIONS
1400+

NCSI

2025 Categorywise Applications



12%
TRIBAL

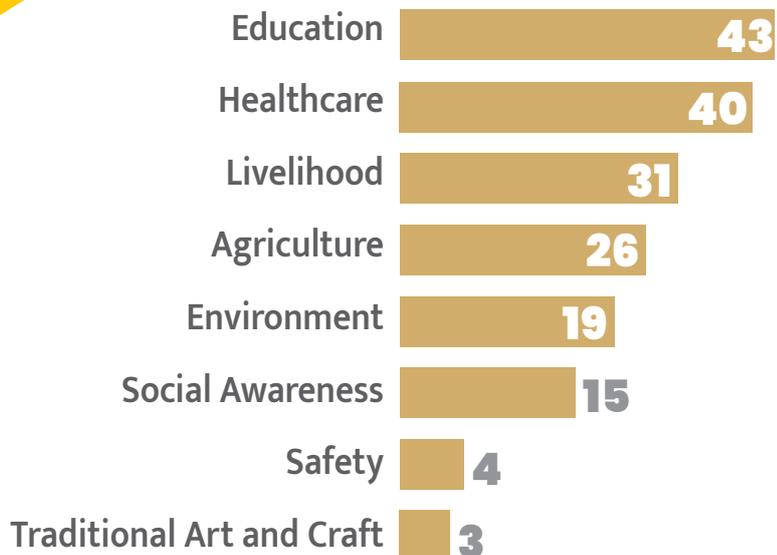


48%
RURAL



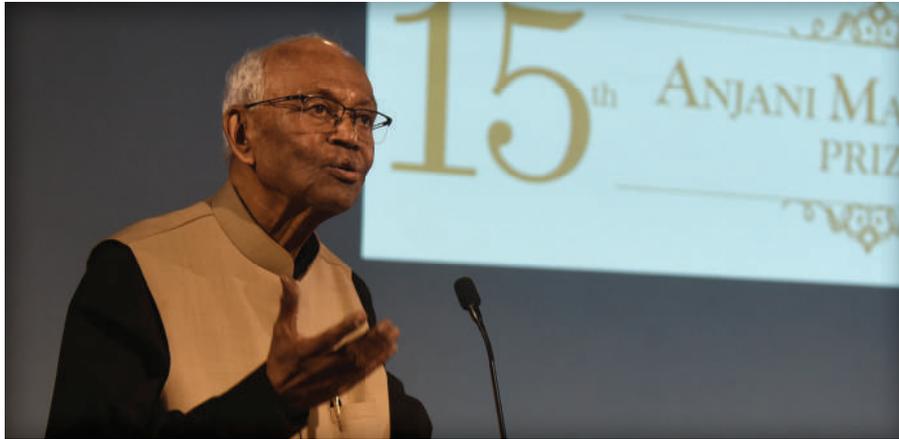
40%
URBAN

Sectorwise Distribution of NCSI 2025





OPENING REMARKS



Dr. R A Mashelkar FRS, President, Pune International Centre

BUILDING AN ECOSYSTEM FOR SCALABLE AND COMPASSIONATE SOCIAL ENTERPRISES

Dr. R. A. Mashelkar welcomed the gathering and thanked all dignitaries present on the dais. He emphasised the importance of sustained institutional partnerships in nurturing social innovation and noted their critical role in driving long-term and scalable impact.

Referring to the 13th National Conference on Social Innovation (NCSI), Dr. Mashelkar described it as an important milestone in PIC's journey. Highlighting the significance of hosting the conference for the first time on PIC's own campus, he noted that it was a reflection of years of collective effort and commitment to building a dedicated space for dialogue, collaboration, and national service.

Dr. Mashelkar reflected on the evolution and role of PIC's Social Innovation Hub in strengthening this ecosystem through mentorship, capability-building initiatives, and knowledge resources that help social entrepreneurs translate ideas into sustainable action.

He emphasized that social innovators face immense challenges, particularly in securing funding, accessing markets, and navigating high costs and stressed the need for a more compassionate approach to equity - one that prioritises social impact, affordability, and lives transformed over conventional commercial metrics.

He concluded by thanking the speakers, panelists, mentors, and the organizing team, and expressed confidence that the conference would strengthen collaboration and contribute meaningfully to the advancement of social innovation in India.



KEYNOTE ADDRESS



Siddharth Sharma, CEO, Tata Trusts.

INNOVATION FOR INCLUSION - A VISION FOR INDIA'S NEXT LEAP

In his keynote at the National Conference on Social Innovation, Siddhartha Sharma began by reflecting on his longstanding association with Dr. Mashelkar and the shared belief that innovation must remain grounded in India's social realities. He emphasised that India, home to 1.4 billion people, must develop home-grown, cost-effective solutions to serve diverse populations and reduce inequalities.

Drawing on India's progress since Independence, Sharma identified three transformational moments in the country's journey - the 1947 political freedom, the 1991 economic reforms that enabled India to break from the "Hindu rate of growth," and the present era where India is poised to rise from the world's fifth largest to the third-largest economy. However, he cautioned that per capita income disparities create "three Indias": the affluent ~10 crore population, the aspiring middle class ~30 crore, and 100+ crore citizens still living in conditions comparable to Sub-Saharan Africa. He said that inclusive growth, therefore, must become a national imperative, as growth is meaningful only when its benefits are widely shared.

Sharma noted that education and healthcare are equalising forces, while warning against over-financialisation of essential services like healthcare. Philanthropy and patient capital - such as that provided by Tata Trusts and Social Alpha - play a crucial role in bridging early-stage funding gaps where traditional markets and banks are reluctant to step in.

Sharma concluded with the message that transformative change is a collective responsibility, where government, business, academia, and citizens must unite to build an equitable, sustainable, opportunity-rich India "built through the conversations, collaborations, and commitments we forge today."



WELCOME ADDRESS



Prashant Girbane, General Secretary, Pune International Centre

SHAPING SPACES FOR INNOVATION AND DIALOGUE

Reflecting on the journey of Pune International Centre (PIC), Girbane shared how the centre was envisioned as a hub for intellectual discussion, innovation, and collaboration. He highlighted the role of forward-thinking leadership in shaping PIC into a space that encourages ideas, dialogue, and meaningful engagement.

Girbane acknowledged Ratan Tata as a key figure in PIC's development and noted the support from Tata and other philanthropic partners, which helped bring PIC's vision to life. He also celebrated the milestone of hosting the National Conference on Social Innovation (NCSI) on the PIC campus for the first time, marking an important moment in its journey.

He expressed special gratitude to Dr. Mashelkar for instituting the Anjani Mashelkar Award, which is presented on the same day. Fully funded by Dr. Mashelkar, the award reflects his commitment to recognising innovation and excellence, while fostering a culture of inspiration and mentorship in Pune.



INNOVATION FOR ACCESSIBLE HEALTHCARE



Sushil Borde, President, Anjani Mashelkar Foundation

Sushil Borde shared how the idea for the Anjani Mashelkar Award was inspired by a note from Dr. Mashelkar’s mother, Anjani Mashelkar, urging, “Please continue to do science for all.” When asked how to make an impact, Dr. Mashelkar said, “Save lives,” highlighting the pressing challenges of disease, non-communicable illnesses, and the barriers of affordability, access, and exclusion due to geography or poverty.

Borde detailed the mission of the Anjani Mashelkar Foundation (AMF), established in 2011, to transform healthcare at population scale through innovation that is affordable, accessible, and digital. He emphasised the difficulties innovators face - funding, market access, and costly clinical trials - and the importance of compassionate partners who prioritise social impact and saving lives. He also highlighted the crucial role of deep tech and AI in addressing gaps such as early detection, which remains a major barrier to saving lives.

A major achievement showcased was the “Affex (Affordable Excellence) Healthcare Kit,” a fully digital, pain-free kit capable of measuring 20 key health parameters in under 15 minutes per person. Designed for deployment even in rural clinics, it enables early detection, effective intervention, and delivery of healthcare to the last mile, exemplifying the Foundation’s vision of accessible and life-saving innovation.



AMP AWARD



From Left : Sushil Borde President, Anjani Mashelkar Foundation; Dr. R A Mashelkar, President PIC; Winners - Rahul Rastogi and Neha Rastogi founders, Agatsa Software Pvt Ltd; Siddharth Sharma, CEO Tata Trusts; Prashant Girbane, General Secretary, PIC; and Maj. Gen. Nitin Gadkari, Director, PIC.

ANJANI MASHELKAR AWARD ANNOUNCEMENT

Mr. Rahul Rastogi and Ms. Neha Rastogi

The Anjani Mashelkar Prize, established by the Anjani Mashelkar Foundation and instituted by Padma Vibhushan Dr. R. A. Mashelkar, recognises pioneering healthcare innovations that have the potential to transform society.

EasyTouch Plus is a non-invasive touch-based blood glucose monitoring device. By simply placing a finger on the device, users can obtain indicative glucose trend reading in under 15 seconds—without pricks or strips. The device is compact, highly portable, and enables regular monitoring anytime and anywhere. The device also provides a platform to track sugar readings over time, with no expiry or usage limits - making preventive care and monitoring simple, pain-free, and affordable.



VOTE OF THANKS



Maj. Gen. Nitin Gadkari (Retd.), Director, Pune International Centre

FROM INSPIRATION TO IMPACT - CELEBRATING INNOVATION THAT SERVES SOCIETY

Maj Gen Nitin Gadkari, Director, PIC, described the National Conference on Social Innovation as one of the most intellectually engaging and inspiring events, beginning with the Anjani Mashelkar Prize, which set a high benchmark for excellence and purpose in social innovation. Reflecting on Dr. Mashelkar's philosophy of "More from Less... for More," he noted that the conference reaffirmed the belief that innovation has the potential to benefit all sections of society.

He observed that the presentations and discussions demonstrated how focused thinking and simple ideas can transcend perceived limitations and lead to transformative social change. Reiterating the objective of the conference - to encourage young entrepreneurial thinkers to develop solutions that deliver greater impact with fewer resources - he stated that the conference had successfully met its goals. The quality of the winning innovations, he noted, was a strong indicator of a promising future for social innovation.

The Director congratulated the award winners and encouraged all participants to remain engaged with the PIC Innovation Hub, assuring them of continued mentorship and institutional support. He expressed sincere gratitude to Dr. Mashelkar, President, PIC, and Dr. Vijay Kelkar, Vice President, PIC, for their constant guidance and encouragement.



From Left : Mentors - Anil Kulkarni, Pramod Athalye and Sanjay Kanvinde; Sushil Borde, President Anjani Mashelkar Foundation; Dr. R A Mashelkar, President, PIC; Siddharth Sharma, CEO, Tata Trusts; Amit Bhargava, Mentor; Neeraj Thakur, Head, SI Hub; Ram Iyer, Mentor; Prashant Girbane, General Secretary, PIC; Maj. Gen. Nitin Gadkari, Director, PIC.

PLAYBOOK LAUNCH AT NCSI 2025

Pune International Centre (PIC) has launched its latest mentoring guide for social innovators - Mentoring Social Innovators: Guiding Ideas, Nurturing Impact, Transforming Communities.

Unveiled at the National Conference on Social Innovation (NCSI) 2025 on November 17, the handbook is an in-depth, practice-based resource developed by mentors from PIC's Social Innovation Hub (SI Hub) vertical, which is dedicated to nurturing early-stage social innovators.

The guide draws on eight years of hands-on experience and collective learning of PIC's mentor cohort - comprising industry leaders, entrepreneurs, domain experts, and practitioners. Over this period, the mentors have guided over 100 Social Impact Organisations (SIOs) through PIC's Social Enterprise Mentorship Programme (SEMP). They have combinedly contributed more than 200 hours annually to an intensive nine-month mentorship cycle, reflecting PIC's commitment to deep and sustained engagement with each cohort of early-stage innovators.



TRIBAL INNOVATION



RURAL INNOVATION



URBAN INNOVATION

SOCIAL INNOVATION

PIC's 13th National Conference on Social Innovation



TRIBAL INNOVATION WINNER



Rushikesh Khilare
Founder, RISE Foundation

TRIBAL CATEGORY: WINNER



RUSHIMELA INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE AND SCIENTIFIC EDUCATION FOUNDATION (RISE FOUNDATION)

Founder/Chief Executive: Rushikesh Khilare

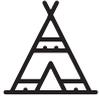
Founded in 2018 in Melghat, Maharashtra, Rushimela Foundation bridges tribal wisdom and modern education by documenting endangered languages and creating inclusive learning tools. It empowers tribal communities through linguistic research, educational innovation, and AI-based platforms.

CORE FOCUS AREAS

- Documenting and preserving tribal languages and oral traditions
- Creating multilingual educational resources for tribal learners.
- Developing AI-powered apps for tribal education.
- Promoting cultural identity and inclusion through language.

IMPACT

- 45 tribal languages researched across Maharashtra.
- 1.1 million+ tribal words documented across 15+ communities.
- 20+ tribal and primers published and reached 6 tribal communities, 528 villages, 617 schools and Anganwadis, 28,473 students, 230 teachers, 25,000+ families.
- Built grassroots institutions like BAG (523), IPS (143), RAP (15), RSSS (27).



TRIBAL INNOVATION FINALIST / PRESENTER



Geeta Muchhala
Founder, Roshni Foundation



ROSHNI FOUNDATION

Founder: Geeta Muchhala

Founded in 2016 in Dahanu, Maharashtra to bring light, learning, and dignity to tribal communities in deep interior hamlets of Dahanu and Talasari. The organisation works through a community-led, sustainable, and replicable model, ensuring local ownership and long-term impact.

CORE FOCUS AREAS

- **Education:** Joyful learning, safe classrooms, scholarships, digital schools.
- **Health:** Menstrual hygiene, healthcare access, ambulance services.
- **Livelihood:** Women's skill train, income opportunities, self-reliance.
- **Environment:** Clean water, solar lighting, rainwater harvesting, tree plantation.
- **Community Development:** Stronger identity, dignity, & confidence.

IMPACT

- 170K children benefited; 95% attendance rise, 0% dropout rate, 80+ smart digital Z.P. schools, 400+ scholarships.
- 70K+ villagers impacted, 25,000+ healthcare benefits, 3,000+ women empowered.
- 2500+ home solar lights, 30+ rainwater harvesting systems, 25,000+ trees planted.
- 25% drop in child labor rate



Vaibhav Raghuwanshi

Founder, Shree Badri Kedar Industries Pvt. Ltd.



SHREE BADRI KEDAR INDUSTRIES PVT. LTD.

Founder: Vaibhav Raghuwanshi

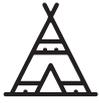
Founded in 2022 in Nandurbar, Maharashtra, Shri Badri Kedar Industries is India's only startup that manufactures unique millet pop products and invents its own processing machines. Recognised by DPIIT, the company aims to revolutionise millet-based food by introducing hygienic, high-efficiency popping technology. Currently at a pre-revenue stage, the startup focuses on innovation-driven solutions to boost farmer income and reduce migration in tribal regions.

CORE FOCUS AREAS

- Developing millet-popping technology for minor and major millets.
- Creating value-added millet products like pops, chikki, laddus, & snacks.
- Empowering tribal farmers through sustainable agriculture and local processing.

IMPACT

- Invented India's first multi-millet popping machine capable of popping 6 millet types continuously.
- Connected with KVK, NABARD, and selected for Cornell Maha60 Program and Digital Impact Square (TCS Foundation).
- Won Maharashtra Startup Yatra district prize and recognised as an Innovative Farmer.



TRIBAL INNOVATION FINALIST



Kushal Agarwal
Founder, Monkey Sports



MONKEY SPORTS

Founder : Kushal Agrawal

Founded in 2018 in Raigarh, Chhattisgarh, Monkey Sports is a rural nonprofit using sports-based social-emotional learning to support children's mental and physical well-being. It operates in Bihar, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, and Assam.

CORE FOCUS AREAS

- Addressing Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) through sports.
- Building emotional regulation, resilience, and community support.
- Providing nutrition and mentorship in underserved areas.

IMPACT

- Reached 4000+ children across 4 states.
- Current programmes:
 - 97 children in Raigarh (direct implementation).
 - 1,500 children in 50 villages (trainer model).
- Tackles issues like abuse, neglect, poverty, and emotional dysregulation.
- Improves school focus, reduces substance abuse risk, and builds long-term resilience.



TRIBAL INNOVATION FINALIST



Dr. Preeti N. Joshi

Founder, FastSense Innovations

FastSense Innovations

FASTSENSE INNOVATIONS

Founder: Dr. Preeti N. Joshi

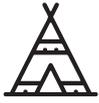
Founded in 2018 in Pune, Maharashtra, FastSense Innovations is a health-tech startup focused on affordable, accessible diagnostics. Its flagship product, SEP-Scan, is a point-of-care device for rapid sepsis screening and antimicrobial resistance (AMR) detection, addressing a major global health challenge.

CORE FOCUS AREAS

- Developing low-cost, portable diagnostic tools for critical conditions like sepsis.
- Empowering frontline health workers with guided, tech-enabled workflows.
- Supporting AMR stewardship and reducing diagnostic delays.

IMPACT

- SEP-Scan delivers results in 30 minutes using just 50µL of blood.
- 10x cheaper than conventional tests; reduces out-of-pocket expenses.
- Deployed in awareness camps and pilot hospitals
- Enables real-time hotspot mapping of sepsis and resistant strains.
- Improves triaging at PHCs and ICUs; reduces referrals to tertiary centres.
- Aligned with SDGs: health equity, reduced emissions, and energy-efficient hardware.



TRIBAL INNOVATION FINALIST



Ganesh Birajdar
Founder, Learning Companions



LEARNING COMPANIONS

Founder : Ganesh Birajdar

Founded in 2018 in Nagpur, Maharashtra, Learning Companions works with the nomadic Bharwad community near Nagpur, addressing extreme educational exclusion. Through contextualised schooling and leadership development, it transforms literacy and livelihood outcomes.

CORE FOCUS AREAS

- Providing accessible, culturally relevant education to nomadic children.
- Training passionate teachers to work in remote hamlets.
- Building leadership capacity among youth through fellowships.

IMPACT

- Literacy jumped from <10% to 68.7% across 80 hamlets.
- Fellows from 5 cohorts: 90% placed in meaningful livelihoods.
- Alumni now lead 20+ organisations, impacting 11,000+ children.
- Active in 43% Bharwad hamlets, where children lacked schooling access.



RURAL INNOVATION WINNER



Vrunda Borkar
Co-Founder, Wingrow Agritech

RURAL CATEGORY: WINNER



WINGROW AGRITECH

Founder & Co-Founder: Mayur Pawar and Vrunda Borkar

Founded in 2023 in Pune, Maharashtra, Wingrow Agritech connects farmers directly with consumers through weekly portable markets, eliminating middlemen and ensuring fair prices. The model empowers rural producers and women self-help groups with training, branding, and digital tools, leading to a 40–50% rise in farmer income and reduced wastage.

CORE FOCUS AREAS

- Direct farmer–consumer market linkages.
- Fair price compensation and income growth.
- Women SHG empowerment and training.
- Technology integration for stall booking and engagement.
- Sustainable supply chains with minimal wastage.

IMPACT

- 1,500+ farmers, 43 SHGs, 1,540+ families supported.
- 6,500+ self-dependent farmers created.
- ₹300 crore farmer revenue generated.
- 92,600+ loyal customers engaged.
- 1,18,000 MT fruits and vegetables sold.



RURAL INNOVATION FINALIST / PRESENTER



Kunal Vaid

Founder, Resham Sutra Pvt. Ltd.



Resham Sutra

RESHAM SUTRA PVT. LTD.

Founder's Name: Kunal Vaid

Founded in 2016, Resham Sutra builds India's largest rural farm-to-fabric value chain, creating sustainable livelihoods and financial independence for artisans. By replacing harmful "thigh reeling" practices with solar-powered machines and linking farmers, spinners, and weavers through a hybrid silk marketplace, the organisation has doubled family incomes and offset thousands of tonnes of CO₂ annually.

CORE FOCUS AREA

- Solar-powered silk reeling machines (400% more productive, 90% energy efficient).
- Gram Sootra hybrid silk marketplace (online + offline, AI voice support, certification).
- Rural training and facility centres for production, business, and digital literacy.
- Ecosystem partnerships with government, CSR, and global foundations.

IMPACT

- 52,000 artisans directly impacted across 400 villages in 16 states.
- 9,000 MT CO₂ offset annually through solar power.
- 200 acres of silk plantation in tribal villages.
- 40+ village entrepreneurs trained for local support.
- Family incomes doubled; 8 training centres and 39 rural facility centres established.



RURAL INNOVATION

FINALIST / PRESENTER



Sanjay Dalmia

Founder, Openlinks Foundation



OPENLINKS FOUNDATION

Founder: Sanjay Dalmia

OpenLinks Foundation drives systemic transformation in education by improving the quality of learning in government schools at scale. Through its flagship Vinoba Program, the organisation leverages technology, behavioural science, and district-level leadership to empower teachers and administrators, creating a thriving ecosystem for holistic student development

CORE FOCUS AREAS

- Vinoba App & Phygital Community
- Academic Programmes, Life Skills Programmes
- District-Level Leadership, Technology Integration

IMPACT

- 61,000 schools across 36 districts, 42 lakh students and 1.95 lakh teachers engaged.
- FLN Programme: 1.27 lakh students participated; 37,000 improved skills.
- Life Skills Programme: 50,000+ posts per month.
- Scholarship Success: 68% increase in Class 5 scholarship qualifications in Gadchiroli.
- Board Exams: 11% rise in Class 12 pass percentage in Gariaband.
- Cost Efficiency: ₹2,400 per school per annum; ₹25 per student per annum.
- Government Partnership: Non-financial MoUs enabling systemic adoption.



RURAL INNOVATION FINALIST



Santosh Khawale
Founder, Dhenoo Tech Solutions

DHENOO TECH SOLUTIONS

Founder: Santosh Khawale

Founded in 2020 in Pune, Maharashtra, Dhenoo is a farmer-centric digital platform serving the dairy and livestock ecosystem in India. It addresses inefficiencies in animal husbandry by providing advisory, training, trading, and management tools. With modules like Pashu Bazar, DigiMart, Pashu Gyan, and Animal Management, the platform connects farmers to experts, veterinarians, suppliers, and buyers, while offering proactive livestock monitoring and knowledge resources.

CORE FOCUS AREAS

- Organising dairy and livestock farming through digital connectivity.
- Providing advisory, training, and practical knowledge to farmers.
- Enabling animal trading and marketplace access via Pashu Bazar and DigiMart.
- Offering proactive animal management tools (records, vaccination, nutrition).
- Integrating IoT devices for real-time livestock monitoring.

IMPACT

- 98,000+ app downloads and 1,000+ articles published.
- 6,000+ animals registered and 1,000+ animals sold.
- 200+ products listed and 50+ retailers onboarded.
- 5,000+ farmer queries addressed, MVP tested with 1,000+ farmers across Maharashtra.



RURAL INNOVATION FINALIST



Mana Mandlekar & Ritesh Tiwari

Co-Founders, Tinka Samajik Sanstha



TINKA SAMAJIK SANSTHA

Co-Founders: Mana Mandlekar & Ritesh Tiwari

Founded in 2017, Tinka Samajik Sanstha empowers rural youth, especially adolescent girls, through sports and self-defense training. Addressing systemic barriers such as early marriage, gender-based violence, and lack of education, TSS builds confidence, resilience, and leadership among children and women in underserved communities. Its karate centres, tournaments, and awareness workshops have created safe spaces and pathways for rural talent to reach national and international levels.

CORE FOCUS AREAS

- Gender equity through sports and self-defense training.
- Youth leadership development via community-run karate centres.
- Inclusion of boys and men as allies for systemic change.
- Awareness workshops on rights, gender inequality, caste discrimination, and violence.
- Residential advanced martial arts training for top rural athletes.

IMPACT

- 76,000+ children and youth reached, including 50,000+ girls.
- 52 operational karate centres across Madhya Pradesh.
- 350+ national players and 51 international players trained (including 120 girls).
- 50 students earned black belts, including 18 girls.



RURAL INNOVATION FINALIST



Mukund Deshpande

Founder, JVD Mettle Innovations Pvt. Ltd.



JVD METTLE INNOVATIONS PVT. LTD.

Founder: Mukund Deshpande

Founded in 2014, JVD Mettle Innovations is a pioneer in establishing state-of-the-art Human Milk Banks (HMBs) across India. The organisation provides turnkey solutions including design, technology, equipment, training, and after-sales support, in line with national and international guidelines. As the exclusive distributor of Sterifeed, Miris, and Medela equipment in India, JVD Mettle Innovations has enabled safe access to donor breast milk, directly addressing preventable neonatal deaths and improving infant health outcomes.

CORE FOCUS AREAS

- Designing and setting up fully operational Human Milk Banks.
- Supplying advanced pasteurisers, breast pumps, and milk analysis technology.
- Training hospital staff in SOPs, lactation management, and safe milk banking practices.
- Ensuring compliance with international safety and quality standards.
- Reducing neonatal mortality and improving infant nutrition.

IMPACT

- 43 successful installations across India, including Asia's first HMB at Sion Hospital, Mumbai.
- National Resource Center for Human Milk Banking established at AIIMS, Delhi.
- Positively impacting over 3,24,000+ babies annually.
- Reducing NICU infections, & boosting cognitive development in infants.



RURAL INNOVATION FINALIST



Pravin Nikam
Founder, Samavesh



SAMAVESH

Founder: Pravin Nikam

Founded in 2021, Samavesh is a social impact organisation focused on bridging the gap between constitutional rights and everyday access for rural and marginalised communities. By training women and persons with disabilities (PwDs) as digital entrepreneurs, Samavesh Centres act as one-stop hubs that simplify access to scholarships, legal documents, and welfare schemes. The model combines technology with human-led support to ensure dignity, inclusion, and empowerment.

CORE FOCUS AREAS

- Training rural women and PwDs as last-mile digital service providers.
- Providing documentation support and unlocking scholarship opportunities.
- Delivering civic services through tech-enabled Samavesh Centres.
- Enhancing digital and financial literacy for education, skilling, and entrepreneurship.
- Linking legal identity with education access to break systemic barriers.

IMPACT

- 850+ students supported through scholarships in 2024–25.
- ₹1.30 Crore unlocked via government scholarships.
- 1,130+ students completed a 60-hour life skills and career awareness module aligned with NEP 2020.
- Fellows earn sustainable livelihoods (avg. ₹22,000/month).



URBAN INNOVATION WINNER



Sonvi Khanna,
Founder, Social Compact

URBAN INNOVATION: WINNER



SOCIAL COMPACT

Social Compact strengthens business systems to ensure dignity and equity for India's industry-engaged informal workers. With 50–80% of India's industrial workforce employed as contractual or supply-chain workers, the initiative bridges the gap between companies and worker organisations. By creating listening loops, grievance redressal systems, and wellbeing frameworks, Social Compact helps companies move beyond certifications to build intentionally inclusive systems.

CORE FOCUS AREAS

- Ensuring minimum to living wages for informal workers.
- Promoting gender parity and equitable opportunities.
- Skilling and growth pathways for contractual and gig workers.
- Establishing grievance redressal mechanisms & enabling access to government benefits.

IMPACT

- Partnered with 70+ companies across manufacturing, construction, and gig sectors & Systemic impact for 6,00,000+ informal workers.
- Introduced grievance redressal systems across 700 sites with 3,00,000+ workers.
- Developed wellbeing frameworks for 3,50,000 gig delivery partners.



Sheetal Agarwal

Founder, Clownselsors Foundation



CLOWNSELORS

CLOWNSELORS FOUNDATION

Founder: Sheetal Agarwal

Clownselsors Foundation is India's pioneering medical clowning initiative dedicated to improving emotional well-being in healthcare settings. By using humour, play, and creativity, trained volunteers engage with patients, families, and hospital staff to reduce stress, anxiety, and isolation during treatment. The approach is globally recognized as a therapeutic intervention that complements medical care and accelerates healing.

CORE FOCUS AREAS

- Conducting medical clowning sessions in hospitals to provide emotional support and distraction therapy.
- Training hospital staff in medical clowning techniques for sustainable impact.
- Innovating virtual sessions and emotional support campaigns during crises (e.g., COVID-19).
- Building evidence-based frameworks to measure psychosocial outcomes.

IMPACT

- 8,00,000+ lives touched across Delhi, Mumbai, and Hyderabad since inception & grew to 800+ trained volunteers nationwide.
- Reduced anesthesia doses pre-operation and improved emotional resilience in pediatric and oncology patients.
- Featured in multiple studies showing improved pain thresholds, reduced anxiety, and better hospital experiences.



Kiran Gupta
Lets Deklutter



LETS DEKLUTTER

Founder's: Kiran Gupta

Lets Deklutter is a community-driven initiative tackling the problem of household clutter and waste. By creating hyperlocal WhatsApp groups, the organisation enables direct re-homing of pre-loved items between neighbours, eliminating intermediaries, and building trust. With 43,000 members across 200 cities, Lets Deklutter promotes mindful living, reduces landfill waste, and strengthens community connections.

CORE VALUES

- Re-homing unused but functional items through area-based WhatsApp groups.
- Simplifying logistics by connecting nearby buyers and sellers directly.
- Promoting circular economy and reducing landfill waste.
- Building trust and community engagement through non-commercial, zero-fee groups.
- Encouraging cultural shift towards reuse and mindful consumption.

IMPACT

- 43,000 members engaged across 200 cities.
- 600+ daily items posted for re-homing.
- Strengthened community bonds and reduced stigma around second-hand use.
- Economic empowerment through cost savings and upcycling.
- Environmental benefits: reduced carbon footprint and landfill waste.



URBAN INNOVATION FINALIST

NCSI
NATIONAL CONFERENCE
ON SOCIAL INNOVATION



Sruthi Babu

Founder, Dhanvantri Biomedical – Sahayatha

Sahayatha

DHANVANTRI BIOMEDICAL – SAHAYATHA

Founder: Shruthi Babu

Founded in 2024, Dhanvantri Biomedical is dedicated to improving the quality of life for immobile and differently-abled individuals through innovative assistive technology. Its flagship product, Sahayatha Wheelchair, integrates advanced mobility with defecation-cleansing support, addressing a critical need for hygiene and dignity among bedridden and geriatric populations.

CORE VALUES

- **Integrated Bidet Technology:** Adjustable 60° angle, battery-operated, waterproof seat.
- **Ease of Use:** Charging lasts up to 30 days; inbuilt water storage and backward commode collection.
- **Accessibility:** Target price of ₹15,000 per unit for mass adoption.
- **IP & Innovation:** 1 Design Patent (Granted), 1 Trademark (Granted), US Patent Published, PCT in 140 countries.

IMPACT

- **Beneficiaries:** Geriatric, bedridden, immobile, & differently-abled individuals.
- **Traction:** 170 units sold; partnerships with 4 hospitals; Pan-India delivery within 4 days.
- **Environmental & Social:** Promotes hygiene, reduces caregiver burden, and enhances dignity.
- **Economic:** Affordable solution compared to competitive brands priced at ₹39,999–₹48,000.



URBAN INNOVATION FINALIST

NCSI
NATIONAL CONFERENCE
ON SOCIAL INNOVATION



Manjiri Gokhale Joshi
Founder, Maya Care Foundation

MAYA CARE FOUNDATION

Founder: Manjiri Gokhale Joshi

Founded in 2009 to empower persons with disabilities (PwDs) and vulnerable communities, Maya CARE addresses barriers to meaningful employment and social inclusion. The organisation has pioneered a 100% remote, flexible, pay-per-hour work model, enabling individuals with disabilities to contribute effectively to organizations while challenging stereotypes..

CORE VALUES

- Inclusive employment opportunities for PwDs through tailored training and remote work.
- Free-of-charge services for elderly individuals, led by PwDs, prioritizing care and dignity.
- Corporate outsourcing solutions (back-office, calling, etc.) to create sustainable income streams for PwDs.

IMPACT

- 1,765+ PwDs directly empowered and 5,295+ indirect beneficiaries.
- 2,000+ elderly individuals served with 32,792 free services, impacting 60,000+ families.
- Promotes financial independence through equitable pay, bonuses, and recognition.



Sneha Bharti
Founder, Purnkuti



Purnkuti

PURNKUTI

Founder : Sneha Bharti

Purnkuti is committed to improving the quality of life for underprivileged children, single women, sex workers, transgenders, & their families. The organization focuses on education, skill development, & sustainable livelihood, empowering marginalized communities through holistic interventions.

CORE VALUES

- **Skill Training & Livelihood:** Offering 26+ vocational courses such as tailoring, beauty services, digital learning, baking, and jewellery making to create income opportunities.
- **Education & Life Skills:** Through initiatives like Waterlily Public School (CBSE-affiliated), providing quality education to rural children from Nursery to Grade 8.
- **Humanitarian Aid:** Disaster relief, nutrition kits, winter essentials, and ration distribution for vulnerable groups.

IMPACT

- 2,108 children educated and trained in life skills since 2011; Waterlily School educates 200 children annually.
- Dhara Project has empowered 1,734+ women through skill training, and established a production unit under the brand Label Purnkuti.
- Distributed 1,75,000 kg ration for COVID-19 relief, 14,400 kg for flood relief, and 8,000+ blankets over 10 years; provided winter essentials to 1,698+ vulnerable individuals.



URBAN INNOVATION FINALIST



Gaurang Kulkarni
Founder, Kulkorp Technologies



KULKORP TECHNOLOGIES

Founder : Gaurang Kulkarni

Founded in 2020, Kulkorp Technologies turn water hyacinth from an environmental curse into a sustainable resource.

CORE FOCUS AREAS

- **Eco-friendly Weed Management:** Mapping rivers, harvesting WH using toll booth systems, solar dryers.
- **Green Energy:** Biochar, briquettes, biogas, EV charging, solar aerators.
- **Livelihood Creation:** Training women and youth for handicrafts, briquette making, grow bags.

IMPACT

- **Environmental:** Restores biodiversity, reduces mosquito breeding.
- **Economic:** ₹15.18 Crore projected revenue; market size ₹38,000+ Crore
- **Social:** Employment for SHGs and youth; skill development centres.



PANEL DISCUSSION



From Left: Santosh Phad, Founder, Thinksharp Foundation; Shubham Singh, Founder, Craste; Proteek Kundu, Founder, Neevjivan; and Shashank Kothari, VP of Platform Engineering at AngelOne (Moderator)

PANEL DISCUSSION ON ‘SUCCESS STORIES OF LEADING SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURS’

This session showcased three social entrepreneurs who have progressed through PIC’s mentorship ecosystem and are now building scalable, market-aligned solutions to pressing development challenges in India. Each founder shared their journey, the problems they are solving, and the lessons that shaped their growth.

Bridging Education Gaps - Santosh Phad, Thinksharp Foundation

Motivated by his own lived experience in rural Maharashtra, Santosh founded Thinksharp Foundation to reduce the rural-urban education divide. The organisation partners with over 600 government schools to strengthen access, infrastructure, and 21st-century skills. He highlighted critical gaps in basic learning resources, digital exposure, and communication skills, and emphasised the importance of data-driven baselining and measurable learning outcomes while scaling.



Circular Economy for Farmers - Shubham Singh, Craste

Craste converts crop residue - typically burnt due to tight cropping cycles—into carbon-negative boards and pulp, creating rural livelihoods while reducing air pollution. Shubham underscored the need to prioritise single-product focus, build complementary talent, and ensure decentralised manufacturing to reduce logistics costs and retain economic value locally.

Women-Led Micro-Entrepreneurship - Proteek Kundu, NeevJeevan Foundation

Working in tribal districts of Maharashtra, NeevJeevan trains women in livelihoods such as poultry, beekeeping, food processing, and mushroom cultivation. Their five-pronged model spans skills, entrepreneurship, finance access, shop-floor setup, and market linkages - the most difficult but decisive step for business success. The transition from individual entrepreneurs to self-help group-based enterprises has significantly increased success rates.

COMMON THEMES & LEARNINGS

- Collaboration with government accelerates scale and reach.
- Networking and mentorship remain catalytic for opportunity access.
- Funding diversification is essential for long-term sustainability.
- Focus and hiring for skill-gaps help founders transition from survival to growth.



PANEL DISCUSSION



From left: Sachin Mardkar, CFO, The/Nudge Institute; Sudipto Marjit, Group CHRO, Tata AutoComp Systems; Jyoti Divgi, CSR Lead, Divgi Group; and Amit Bhargava, CEO, BiofuelCircle (Moderator)

PANEL DISCUSSION : CSR FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

The CSR Funding Opportunities panel brought together senior corporate leaders who emphasised that CSR today is not charity but a strategic extension of business priorities - one that demands impact accountability, governance, and long-term alignment. The speakers shared that their respective organisations anchor CSR interventions in areas where they possess ecosystem knowledge and operational presence.

The/Nudge Institute focuses on large-scale development priorities with clear poverty alleviation outcomes. Tata AutoComp Systems directs its CSR investments toward enabling future-ready industrial communities through education, skilling, and inclusion in automotive and mobility sectors. Divgi Group works deeply in regions where manufacturing clusters draw migrant labour, focusing on continuity of education, healthcare access, and water management for these families.

Across the discussion, panellists stressed that credibility and compliance are the primary filters through which CSR evaluates NGO partnerships. Corporates



expect robust baselines, structured reporting, financial transparency, and operational readiness to protect brand reputation and ensure sustainable outcomes. Equally important is that organisations demonstrate scalability and replicability - showing potential to move from interventions in a few villages to wider geographies.

Another clear message was that funding alone does not define a CSR partnership. Corporates increasingly seek employee volunteering and technical collaboration, ensuring deeper engagement and mutual value creation. Innovators from underserved regions raised concerns about CSR concentration in urban and industrial belts; in response, speakers encouraged greater visibility through platforms like PIC's Social Innovation Hub to bridge geography and access gaps.

Moderator Amit Bhargava captured the essence of the discussion, noting that "CSR is very serious and business organisations are insistent that the people they support have the necessary processes in place."



PANEL DISCUSSION



From Left: Mandar Dixit, Director, Social Alpha; Raghavendra Rao, Director, Portfolio, India Health Fund; Mr. Gireendra Kasmalkar, Managing Partner, Pentathlon Ventures (Moderator); and Vivek Pawar, Founder & CEO, Netra Accelerator Foundation

IMPACT INVESTING IN SOCIAL INNOVATION SPACE

The session explored how impact funds in India evaluate social innovation through the lens of both financial viability and public good, placing founders' mission-driven focus at the centre of decision-making. Investors shared the importance of a full-stack support system for startups - from lab-stage prototyping to market access. They emphasised that capital alone cannot deliver outcomes; hands-on venture development support, regulatory guidance, and market validation are essential enablers for social enterprises.

The panellists highlighted the need for solving last-mile challenges where capacity constraints and low-resource environments can dilute impact. Technology was framed as a powerful equaliser - whether through digital diagnostics, geospatial tools for farmers, or AI-based employability training - but only when applied pragmatically to reduce risk and strengthen delivery. The conversation reinforced that investors today seek measurable outcomes (lives improved, income uplift, access to healthcare), rather than only outputs like number of pilots, or beneficiaries reached.



A recurring theme was the “gap-filling” role of impact investment: patient and blended capital is often required to derisk promising solutions until mainstream commercial financing can step in. The speakers noted that a maturing ecosystem - including CSR participation, government incubation programmes, and stronger incubator networks - is helping India’s impact ventures accelerate scale. Looking ahead, they anticipate funding to shift toward climate-linked health challenges and cross-sector solutions, as well as more collaborative multi-investor models that ensure sustainability beyond a single funding source.



EXTERNAL JURY

TRIBAL CATEGORY



Dr. Rajashree Joshi
Programme Director,
BAIF Development
Research Foundation



Neil Borate
Editor-in-chief,
theyfynprint



Nitesh Bhardwaj
Founder and CEO,
Ulgulan Foundation

RURAL CATEGORY



Girish Chandra
Co-founder, Altzor Digital
Solutions



Ashutosh Bishnoi
Visiting Faculty Member,
National Securities Markets



Dinanath Kholkar,
Professor in Practice,
COEP

URBAN CATEGORY



Mugdha Lele
Head of Preincubation
and Learning,
Venture Center



Sujata Deshpande
Head CSR,
Thermax Foundation



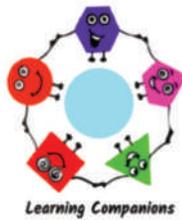
Ashish Garde
Director,
MAGIC by CMIA



PUNE INTERNATIONAL CENTRE



FastSense
Innovations



Purnkuti





NCSI IN PICTURES

Celebrating Innovation

Visionaries and changemakers converged at NCSI 2025 to explore transformative ideas for a better tomorrow.



L to R — Mr. Sushil Borde; Dr. R. A. Mashelkar; Mr. Siddharth Sharma; Mr. Prashant Girbane; and Maj. Gen. Nitin Gadkari (Retd.)



L to R — Mr. Sachin Mardikar; Mr. Sudipto Marjit; Ms. Jyoti Divgi; Maj. Gen. Nitin Gadkari (Retd.) and Mr. Amit Bhargava



L to R — Mr. Prashant Girbane; Mr. Mandar Dixit; Mr. Raghavendra Rao; Mr. Gireendra Kasmalkar and Mr. Vivek Pawar



L to R — Mr. Sanjay Kanvinde; Mr. Santosh Phad; Mr. Shubham Singh; Mr. Proteek Kundu and Mr. Shashank Kothari



L to R — Mr. Pradeep Bhargava and Ms. Yogita Apte



L to R — Mr. Dinanath Kholkar and Mr. Kurush Irani



ABOUT PUNE INTERNATIONAL CENTRE

Pune International Centre (PIC) is an independent, multi-faceted, action-oriented policy research think tank that seeks to foster the values enshrined in the Indian Constitution and the UN Charter. It has six research verticals, namely the Social Innovation Hub, Centre for National Security Studies, Centre for Sustainable Energy and Mobility, Co-operative Federalism and Multilevel Governance, Geopolitics &Goeconomics and Arts & Culture.

PIC was established on 24 September 2011 under the leadership of renowned scientist Dr R. A. Mashelkar, FRS (President), senior economist and ex-bureaucrat Dr Vijay Kelkar (Vice President), and others. Today, PIC has grown into an institution with more than 550 distinguished members, 62 Institutional Members (IITs, IIMs, universities, etc.) and 14 Corporate Members.

In addition to undertaking public policy research, PIC hosts major national and international conferences, promotes an environment for free and fair public debates, and provides a platform to promote the arts and culture.

SOCIAL INNOVATION HUB

The Social Innovation Hub works towards easing the challenge of scarcity and the aspirations of entrepreneurs. We foster entrepreneurship while concentrating on developing socially responsible business people. The initiatives under the Social Innovation Hub are as follows:

- National Conference on Social Innovation (NCSI)
- Social Enterprise Mentorship Programme (SEMP)
- Shared Service Centre for Social Enterprise (SSC)
- Capability Building Sessions
- Expert Talk Sessions
- Co-working Space
- Policy Papers, Blogs and Playbooks

ABOUT THE SOCIAL INNOVATION HUB TEAM

- Neeraj Thakur — Head, Social Innovation Hub
- Pradeep Nair — Sr. Editor, Pune International Centre
- Swarali Gore — Programme Coordinator / Rapporteur, Social Innovation Hub
- Prasad Walave — Programme Coordinator / Designer, Social Innovation Hub
- Amruta Pawar — Rapporteur



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