

Impact Unicorn

The Action For India Newsletter



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Note to readers

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Founder & President, AFI

As we contemplate the last year and the challenges we have all faced, AFI has outdone itself in sailing through the hardships like never before. Thanks to all the programs we have initiated in the last decade, the gap between enablers of change and the prominent investors is diminishing. This decade we plan to take more evolved steps to equip our social entrepreneurs and help them scale the impact right till the bottom of the pyramid.

Our utmost gratitude to the eBay Foundation, Guru Krupa Foundation, IDRF, eBay India and all other stakeholders who have helped us advance our intent into action. In the last 10 years, AFI has covered many milestones and more in counting. Our social entrepreneurs have garnered great success, travelling extensively and engaging with executives to gain prominent funding & insights, thus amplifying the good work right to the ground level.

India is a global test bed for social innovations to solve mega problems and help the planet. We endeavour to design customized interventions that address unique challenges faced by social entrepreneurs, especially women to help them with their scaling journeys. Let's look towards a horizon filled with opportunities and robust innovations that could be amplified to larger solutions.

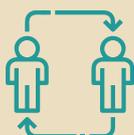
AFI FOR IMPACTMAKERS

“ Never underestimate the power of a few committed people to change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.

” - Margaret Mead



ENGAGE



GROW



CONNECT



AMPLIFY

A **ten year journey with countless milestones** has found its home in our very first newsletter.

Let's map more journeys towards a **better tomorrow**.

About AFI

Living by the maxim of our Honorary Chairman, Dr. Sam Pitroda: ***“Building a nation is very different from building a company: takes time, long term vision, you need to take people together.”*** Action For India (AFI) since 2012, has been providing a stable platform for aspiring Social Entrepreneurs and Investors to help support human development. It has been our mission to help social entrepreneurs in India overcome barriers to scale and achieve greater impact at the ‘bottom of the pyramid’. Headquartered in Delhi, India, AFI, an international impact incubator, has its presence in Silicon Valley, USA and the United Kingdom.

Social entrepreneurs bring their own set of challenges, which AFI helps solve by bridging the gap between the investors, mentors, government partners and local partners. Over the years, we have impacted more than 10 million lives through our interventions. Our core customers are high potential social entrepreneurs working in sectors such as education, healthcare, agriculture, livelihood, energy, and fin-tech. We have been a pioneer in recognizing and nurturing our social entrepreneurs towards new heights. Connecting them with the right resources, we have helped more than 800+ social entrepreneurs in their scaling journeys across 20+ states. We also seek fruitful collaborations with government and policy-makers that add impetus to our initiatives and claim efforts through long-term funding for innovative solutions.

“Walking hand-in-hand can lend you the support required to make the journey of a 1000 miles.” Several foundations and investors have been a part of our journey towards creating a larger impact - eBay Foundation, Motwani Jadeja Foundation, Let’s Venture, UN Global Compact, IDRF, NASSCOM Foundation, Guru Krupa Foundation, Deshpande Foundation, Omnivore etc. Some of the most renowned tech giants too, joined our hands on the journey; Intel, Cisco, HP, Infosys, Indigo, Enarr, Nokia, etc. To add momentum, some of the most prestigious government bodies supported us - NITI Aayog, Government of Telangana, CIIE, MCIT, Indian Agricultural Research Institute, National Internet Exchange of India etc.



VISION

AFI aims to create 25 impact unicorns by 2025 who will each impact 1 million lives over 5 years in a sustainable way.



MISSION

AFI strongly believes in the philosophy that sustainable human development can happen only by empowering high-potential social entrepreneurs and creating conditions to enable their success. In this context, our mission is to identify and help scale at least 25 of such Social Enterprises to be Unicorns and in the process, potentially enhance the lives of 25 million people.

WOMEN IN SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP

WISE THE FUTURE IS HERE

AFI launched its first-ever cohort of women social entrepreneurs, who are on their scaling journeys to become the next impact unicorns. It aims at igniting minds of women entrepreneurs through extensive mentoring and handholding with the choice of leaders, through critically-designed learning spaces to grow their business.



FOUNDATION

Action for India that has actively worked towards harnessing women entrepreneurs to promote innovation and economic growth, is delighted and immensely thankful to get support and join hands with the eBay Foundation for its WISE program. We can produce some robust solutions that could be amplified for larger solutions across sections of the society. eBay continue to remain committed towards economic empowerment of women entrepreneurs and their commitment towards growth of business in India.

WISEPRENEURS



Neha Kirpal
Co-Founder,

Mental Health



Akshita Sachdeva
Co-Founder,

Technology



Shveta Raina
Founder,

Education



Jahanvi Joshi
Co-Founder,

Innovation



Pooja Rai
Co-Founder & CEO,

Livelihood



Dimple Parmar
Co-Founder,

Health & Fitness

Covered by

About AFI Annual Forum

Driving impact investing to attain UN SDGs

AFI Annual Forum is the most anticipated event for our social enterprises to showcase their work and get recognised by the entire ecosystem of industry leaders, investors, government and technology experts. Each year, 100 social entrepreneurs are handpicked to meet 100 influencers to network and learn. Till date, AFI has organised 8 Annual Forums and has built an ecosystem of top social ventures in India which helps social entrepreneurs forge key partnerships and help scale to the next level.

Tap to register for 2021

Key Attractions of Annual Forum



Annual Forum 2021

The 9th edition of the Forum is scheduled to be held virtually in the last quarter of 2021 due to the spurt and uncertainty of the pandemic. The forum will be opening avenues for the social entrepreneurs to the rest of the world particularly in the US and the UK.

There will be insights for entrepreneurs covering several topics such as fundraising, sectoral trends, growth marketing, and leveraging technology for scaling impact. Leading practitioners and influential voices in global impact markets have been part of the previous Forums. During the course of the two-day event, these participants will discuss, deliberate and devise ways to promote innovation and scale impact.



Previous Annual Forums

Leveraging Technology for Scaling Impact

Building Hubs of Social Innovation for Mega Impact

Scaling Social Impact in India

Sustainable Development Goals and Impact Investing

2012

2013

2014

2015

2016

2017

2018

2019

Scaling Social Innovation in India

Leveraging Peers, Partners & Technology: Connect. Collaborate. Co-Create.

Technology for Transformation - Embracing the future for mega impact

Converging for Change



LOADING...

Social Enterprise Advisory Program (SEAS)

Launched SEAS in 2012 with the support from IDRF and GKF. It aims to help build sustainable entrepreneurial business models. AFI arranged multiple programs of fundraising, consulting, bespoke mentoring and network access.



AFI i-TIC Foundation Social Entrepreneurship Accelerator (AISEA)

Launched AISEA in 2019, in partnership with IIT Hyderabad to lend support in funding, mentoring, technology, industry and government ecosystems specifically for tech-enabled entrepreneurs. It is funded by the Government of India through the Department of Science and Technology with over 30+ entrepreneurs reaping the benefits currently.

Silicon Valley Challenge (SVC) Trek

Launched in 2014, SVC is an annual business plan competition. It aims to send the 5 highest-potential social enterprises partaking in the competition from across India to Silicon Valley, California for a 2-week, all expenses paid, experiential learning program. SVC Trek 2021 was held virtually this year in February.



Impact Investment Fund

Launched Impact Investment Fund in collaboration with **3iPartners**, a group of established Silicon Valley entrepreneurs and executives who help in boosting capital, minimising inefficiencies, improving access, and creating impact. The program specifically caters to social enterprises working in agri-tech, health-tech, and edu-tech sectors.



2021

Successfully organized Silicon Valley Challenge Trek. Virtually launched its first-ever Women Entrepreneurship Program (WISE) in collaboration with eBay Foundation.



2020

AFI launched the UK Chapter & has entered new territories of advisory & evolution.



2019

Launched the AFI I-TIC Foundation Social Entrepreneurship Accelerator (AISEA).



2018

Established programs blueprint to address the changing needs of social entrepreneurs, especially women entrepreneurs, playing pivotal roles in their scaling journey.



2017

Initiated long-term collaboration with NITI Aayog for the AFI Forum.



2016

Achieved the milestone of establishing a strong network of 500 social entrepreneurs across various sectors.



2015

Expansion of Sandbox Network to Varanasi with the launch of Ek Soch Sandbox in partnership with Spice Connect.



2014

Launched the Silicon Valley Challenge (SVC) Trek - an immersive, experiential learning program for social entrepreneurs.



2013

Leveraged Indian diaspora, which helped begin AFI's US Silicon Valley Chapter. The Kakatiya Sandbox Network program in Telangana was undertaken in partnership with the Deshpande Foundation.



2012

AFI was born, to help social entrepreneurs facilitate sustainable social impact. First AFI Annual Forum enabled the coming together of high potential entrepreneurs, mentors and startup advisors.



PRAISE FOR AFI FROM GURU KRUPA FOUNDATION

We are very grateful for the immense support from the **Guru Krupa Foundation Inc**, who have given momentum to the Social Entrepreneurship Programs. They have helped overcome barriers on scaling journeys of the social innovators from India, and consequently, a large number of social entrepreneurs have benefitted and completed programs successfully that gave impetus to their benevolent businesses. Thanks to them, out of the 15 companies working with AFI, one company was approved for \$1 million in seed funding and another for \$100,000 of funding.



AFI FELLOWS IN THE NEWS

Action For India's social entrepreneurs and star fellows, are climbing the ladder to excellence and change. With their work well done, they are receiving the due recognition and creating an impact right till the bottom of the pyramid.



Our partner GUVI bagged Guinness World Records for its 'AI-for-India 1.0' initiative for most numbers of users to take computer programming lessons in 24 hrs.



Our partner Digital Green, is among the 14 India based organizations out of 286 globally that have collectively received a \$2.7B grant from Mac Kenzie Scott.



Mr. Birkant Tiwary, CEO, Grow-Trees.com during an interview with The Weather Channel, highlighted how winning the Action For India Award gave impetus to his green initiative globally.



Scaling Social Impact through Technology