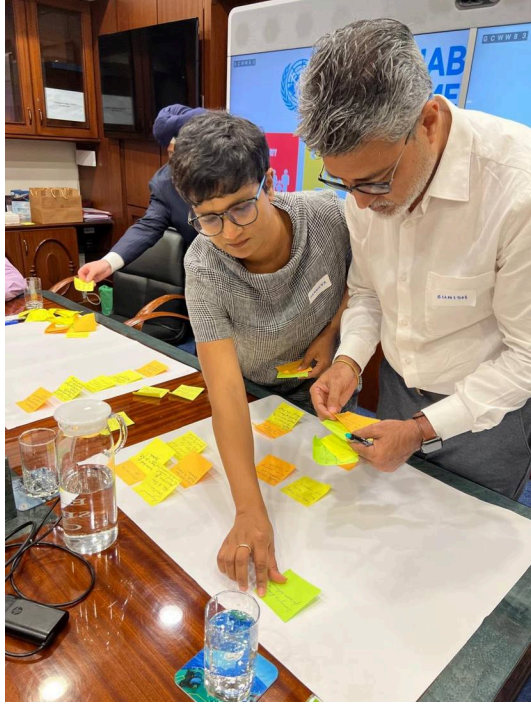






Catalyst Now

India Chapter

Annual Report 2025–26

A year of convening residents, member organisations, universities, corporates and government to work on shared problems together.

Contents

01 **About Catalyst Now India** 3
Who we are, our goals and governance

02 **The year at a glance** 4
Headline numbers and the twelve initiatives

03 **The year, month by month** 4
Timeline from July 2025 to March 2026

04 **Catalyzing Change Week 2025** 5
Nine member-led sessions

05 **Beyond the Week** 10
CSR Systems Change convening and the Health Collaborative

06 **Global Social Innovation Day campaign** 12
13 member convenings and grants

07 **Building partnerships for systems change** 13
Strategy, progress and who we work with

08 **Moments from the year** 14
Photographs

09 **With thanks to our funders** 16

10 **Financials** 17
Funds received, spending and budget progress

11 **Looking ahead to 2026–27** 18
and message from the leadership

12 **Join the network** 19
Why members join Catalyst Now India

About Catalyst Now India

Catalyst Now is the India Chapter of Catalyst 2030, a global network of changemakers advancing the UN Sustainable Development Goals through collective action and systems change. The chapter brings together social entrepreneurs, civil society organisations, funders, corporates and government to co-create solutions that are inclusive, scalable and rooted in community wisdom, acting as an honest broker between them.

1,500+
member organisations, the largest network of social purpose organisations in India

170M+
people reached by members' work across the SDGs

100+
countries in the global Catalyst 2030 network

Four goals for the next three years

1

Narrative building and amplification

Build mainstream media partnerships, position India as a hub for social innovation by publishing scalable collaborative solutions, and hold regular forums such as the SDG Conclave.

2

Systems change through collaborative action

Advocate for funding practices aligned with the SDGs, make the case for funding collaboratives, and run the Social Stock Exchange Task Force as the sector's go-to resource on the SSE.

3

A national footprint

Develop collaborations with government for district and state-level transformation, and grow membership beyond the metros, especially in the North East.

4

Localisation

Promote community-led development by convening members and local stakeholders, and establish at least five district chapters led by proximate leaders, including Dalit, OBC, Adivasi and women leaders.

How the chapter is governed

Executive Group

An elected, rotational body chosen by the General Assembly. Chaired by **Sunish Jauhari**.

Abhijeet Khandagale · Atchuta Rao · Deepjyoti Sonu Brahma · Kiran Reddy Avuthu · Nishit Kumar · Dr. Megha Phansalkar · Monisha Vemavarapu · Pankaj Singh Thakur · Sandhya Naidu Janardhan · Sanyukta Gupta · Sehjo Singh · Shama Karkal · Shrashtant Patara

Advisory Committee

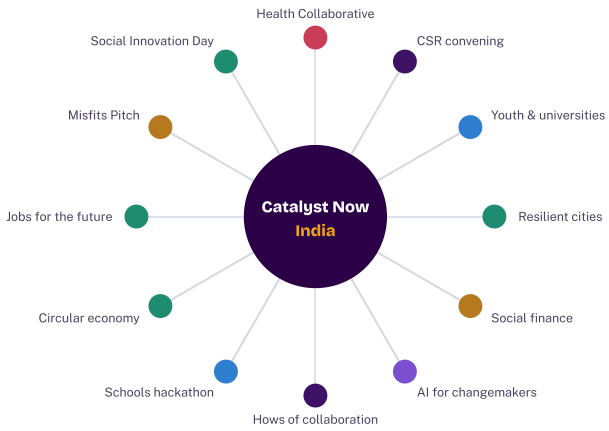
Provides strategic guidance to the chapter.

Ajay Khanna · Anshu Gupta · Ashwin Naik · Deval Sanghvi · Jacob Mathew · Jeroo Billimoria · Mirai Chatterjee · Neelam Chhiber · Safeena Husain · Sanjoy Roy · Shiv Kumar

During its first year, the chapter's funds were held by Impact Catalyst Foundation as fiscal host while the chapter completed its formal registration as a Section 8 company.

The year at a glance

A year of bringing residents, grassroots organisations, universities, corporates and government into the same room — and turning those conversations into collaborations. This report covers April 2025 to March 2026.



12 initiatives across the year	**13** member-led convenings funded for Social Innovation Day	**3,600+** households covered by the M/East Ward health survey	**1,000+** residents at Sehat Ki Baat, Saath Saath
9 member-led sessions during Catalyzing Change Week	**17** speakers and moderators	**9** funders, institutional and individual	**12** member organisations received grants

The year, month by month

Activity built up through the monsoon and peaked in the first half of November, when Catalyzing Change Week and Global Social Innovation Day ran back to back.

Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec–Mar
			Health Collaborative launched	CSR Systems Change convening			Catalyzing Change Week, 9 sessions Social Innovation Day campaign, 7–15 Nov	Member grants disbursed

Catalyzing Change Week 2025

Nine sessions in November, each proposed and led by a member, with one question running through all of them: what does it take for different sectors to actually work together? Filter by theme, or open any session for the full account.

9 sessions

8 lead organisations

6 online | 2 hybrid | 1 in person

Led by members from Tisser Artisans Trust, Community Design Agency, Swasti, Adhyayan Quality Education Foundation, ESTAH Society, Middle Road, Vruksh Ecosystem and Catalyst Now.

5 November Wednesday

Education and youth

In person and online

Youth and Universities as Catalysts of Change

Led by Megha Phansalkar, Tisser Artisans Trust

Call to action

Co-create actionable projects with universities and youth networks that advance sustainability, entrepreneurship and social innovation.

Panel and interactive workshop. Moderator: Megha Phansalkar (Tisser Artisans Trust). Speakers: Medha Tapiwala (University of Mumbai), Nutan Kajbaje (fashion and textile designer), Jaanvi Joshi (KES Shroff College).

Educators and practitioners looked at how universities are moving beyond traditional academics to foster sustainability, entrepreneurship, social innovation and community engagement. The session drew on Tisser Artisans Trust's university partnerships, including with Amity University, SNDT University and HSNC University, to show how students can become social innovators and entrepreneurs.

Student-led work in sustainable fashion, social enterprise, environmental stewardship and outreach showed what supportive learning ecosystems can produce. Speakers stressed that creativity, critical thinking, ethics and collaboration matter as much as technological fluency, and called for stronger partnerships between universities and the social impact sector.

6 November Thursday



Climate and circularity · In person

Climate, Community and the Call for Resilient Urban Futures

Led by Sandhya Naidu Janardhan, Community Design Agency






Call to action

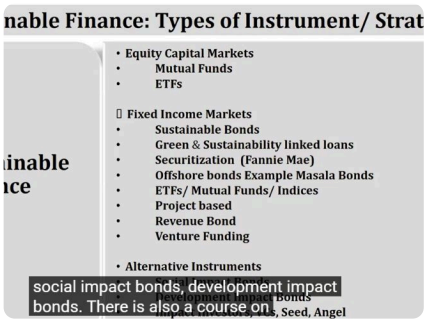
Find ways to bring marginalised communities into the decisions that shape their neighbourhoods and lives.

Community convening at Awaaz Community Centre, Govandi. Organised by Community Design Agency (CDA) in partnership with Catalyst Now India, with residents of Mumbai's M/East Ward.

M/East Ward is among Mumbai's poorest and most climate-vulnerable areas. Residents, practitioners, researchers, funders and local leaders met there to explore how climate affects health and wellbeing, and how residents can lead changes to their own neighbourhood.

The session included a screening of *Gutter Ki Machhli*, a 10-minute animated documentary about everyday climate vulnerability in a resettlement neighbourhood, made from drawings and poetry by the children and women who live there. Discussion focused on arts-based, participatory methods and the challenges grassroots organisations face at the meeting point of health, climate and spatial change.

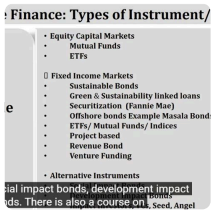
The convening led to new collaborations around women's collectives, community health and livelihoods.



Finance and enterprise · Online

The Evolving Social Finance Sector

Led by Nishant Malhotra, Middle Road OPC Pvt Ltd



Call to action

Understand social finance mechanisms and apply them to design interventions with better socio-economic outcomes.

Talk. Speaker: Nishant Malhotra (Middle Road OPC Pvt Ltd).

An overview of how green, social, sustainability-linked and ESG bonds have evolved, alongside impact investing and blended finance, with global asset allocation trends and case studies.

The session gave practical pointers on how organisations can access sustainable finance through partnerships, impact investors and results-based financing.





Technology and AI

Online

Skills Lab: AI for Changemakers in APAC

Led by Abheejit K, Catalyst Now

Call to action

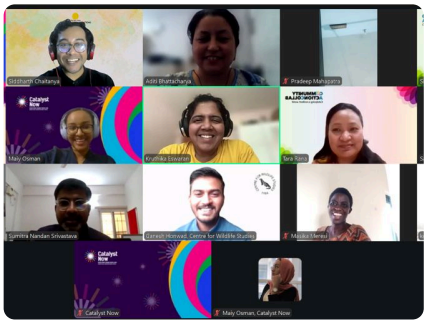
Put technology and AI to work for social change, and prepare for the future of work.

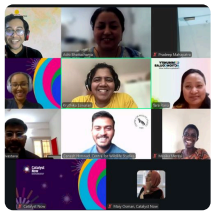
Panel discussion. Speakers: Shaista Keating (Vice President, TechSoup), Ned Lomigora (Founder, 387Labs), Abheejit K (Digital Solutions Director, Catalyst Now).

How can AI strengthen education, nonprofit operations and community engagement across Asia-Pacific without deepening inequality? The panel covered practical uses in fundraising, programme management, communications and personalised learning.

Speakers flagged digital access, infrastructure, energy demand and governance as the real constraints, and argued for cross-sector collaboration and capacity building so AI becomes a tool for equity.

7 November Friday





Collaboration

Online

The Hows of Collaboration: A Writeshop on Our Lessons

Led by Shama Karkal, Swasti

Call to action

Share what it takes to get more cooperation, rather than competition, within and across sectors.

Facilitated writeshop. Moderator: Siddhi Mankad. Speakers: Shrirupa Sengupta, Shama Karkal (Swasti), Siddharth Chaitanya.

Rather than another discussion about collaboration, participants wrote down what actually works. Small groups shared experiences, challenges and lessons, with every contribution credited.

The result was a co-created playbook for different sectors on the mindsets and practical "hows" of partnership.

Education and youth

Online

Schools as Innovation Hubs: A Practitioner-Led Hackathon

Led by Nishtha Kapoor, Adhyayan Quality Education Foundation

Call to action

Design micro-learning solutions so every practitioner can become a change catalyst in their classroom, school and community.

120-minute hackathon. Organised by Adhyayan Quality Education Foundation, with a practitioner spotlight from a school leader in Goa.

Educators were introduced to Abhyaas, a platform for documenting and sharing effective school practices, and to "how-to" micro-learning that practitioners can apply straight away.

Teams co-created step-by-step resources on literacy, digital skills, trauma-informed learning and teacher engagement, and built peer networks across geographies. The hackathon aligned with NEP 2020 and SDGs 4, 10 and 17.

Climate and circularity

In person and online

Building a Circular Economy for Social Good

Led by Megha Phansalkar, Tisser Artisans Trust

Call to action

Back circular models through policy advocacy, corporate partnership and community-driven livelihoods.

Panel discussion. Moderator: Megha Phansalkar (Tisser Artisans Trust). Speakers: Tapan Kumar Rout (Textiles Committee, Ministry of Textiles), Shilpi Kapur (Environmental Management Centre), Shishir Joshi (Project Mumbai), Smita Kale (Municipal Corporation).

The panel centred on the Navi Mumbai Textile Recovery Facility, India's first city-wide textile waste management initiative, and how it turns textile waste into economic value through collection, upcycling, recycling and women-led livelihoods.

Panellists stressed data-driven decisions, technology, policy support and multi-stakeholder partnership, presenting the facility as a replicable model for other cities.

Also during the Week dates to be confirmed

Climate and circularity

Online

Jobs for the Future: Circular Economies and Second-Generation Legacy Builders

Led by Atchuta Rao, ESTAH Society

Call to action

Co-develop and pilot community-led models for green jobs, working towards 2,000+ green jobs per constituency and green livelihood pathways for 1 million youth by 2030.

Workshop. Lead: Atchuta Rao (ESTAH Society).

Built around the "We Heal The Earth" framework, the session explored how second-generation rural returnees, CSR partners, academia and government can create green jobs through public-private-people partnerships.

Participants co-created approaches to vocational skilling and B.Voc pathways, local entrepreneurship and community-owned innovation hubs, and discussed bringing regenerative development into state and district planning.

Finance and enterprise

Online

Misfits Global Pitch Competition

Led by Abheejit K, Catalyst Now, with Rahul Pari, Vruksh Ecosystem

Call to action

Pitch your venture to impact investors and join South Asia's largest community of changemakers.

Pitch competition. Over three previous editions, Misfits engaged 500+ social entrepreneurs and 250+ partners, held pitch sessions in 15+ locations, and helped participants raise over USD 3 million.

Startups, nonprofits and innovation initiatives pitched to impact investors and gained visibility, partnerships and investment leads within the social innovation ecosystem.

Beyond the Week

Two convenings earlier in the year set up much of what followed in November.

Collaborative Systems Change with CSR and corporate leadership

1 August 2025 · The Great Eastern Shipping Co. Ltd. head office, Mumbai

CSR heads and corporate leaders spent the session on one question: what would it take for cross-sector collaboration to move India toward an inclusive, sustainable and equitable future by 2047?

Participants named the barriers plainly — fragmented funding, short project cycles, siloed approaches and incentives that pull in different directions — and then mapped where partnerships between corporates, government and civil society could be stronger.

> The room agreed on a shift: from funding projects to backing outcomes, through long-term partnerships, innovative financing, shared accountability and investment in the ecosystem itself.

Outcome-driven CSR · Long-term partnerships · Innovative finance · Shared accountability



Building a Health & Habitat Collaborative at Natwar Parekh Colony

July 2025 · M/East Ward, Mumbai · with Community Design Agency (CDA)

3,600+
households surveyed

1,000+
residents engaged

8
partner organisations

Health in M/East Ward cannot be separated from housing, nutrition, public space, waste and livelihoods. Starting from a neighbourhood-wide survey, this initiative brought residents, healthcare providers, community organisations, researchers and public institutions together around that systems view.

The collaborative launched with *Sehat Ki Baat, Saath Saath*, a community-led health and arts gathering of screenings, dialogue and collective planning. It identified six priorities and a framework for coordinated, place-based micro-interventions.

Nutrition · Preventive care · Eye care · Public spaces · Waste management · Community leadership



Planning conversation at the Community Design Agency office, Govandi.

Global Social Innovation Day campaign

7–15 November 2025. Instead of one central event, Catalyst Now India funded its members to host their own. Thirteen convenings brought grassroots innovators, community leaders and local funders together on health inclusion, education, entrepreneurship, AI for rural women, youth dialogue and community health.

₹2,31,505 granted to members

13 grants

12 organisations

Metropolitan Institute Federation (2 grants)	₹26,844
Darbar Sahitya Sansada	₹25,607
Saathi Cares (SHC Foundation)	₹20,778
Peace Channel	₹20,200
Can Youth Organization	₹20,026
Bala Vikasa Centre	₹20,000
HELP (Society for Help Entire Lower & Rural People)	₹20,000
Aveti Learning	₹20,000
Samadhan Foundation	₹19,746
Lipok Social Foundation	₹18,725
Saathealth	₹10,129
Scaletenx Technologies	₹9,450

Grant amounts per organisation, disbursed December 2025 to March 2026. The Metropolitan Institute Federation received two grants.



Top: Aveti Learning's convening. Bottom: youth convening at the Parivartan Sheel Sanstha community centre.

Building partnerships for systems change

The chapter acts as a neutral, trusted convener between grassroots innovators, government and the private sector. For government, partnerships offer proximity to lived realities and feedback on programmes. For companies, they offer a route to more strategic CSR.

Scale social innovation

Expand what is already working at the grassroots.

Align systems

Connect public and private efforts with local realities.

Build shared platforms

Help cross-sector actors work together on practical, scalable initiatives.

Where the partnership strategy stands

COMPLETED

Level 1 · Foundations

Formal registration completed, a Partnerships Working Group set up, and an outreach toolkit developed.

IN PROGRESS

Level 2 · Alignment

Identifying partners, exploratory discussions, curated roundtables and Catalyst Conversations, and early pilot designs.

NEXT

Level 3 · Pilots

Small-scale pilots on climate resilience, youth leadership, women's economic empowerment and community-led development, documented as they go.

NEXT

Level 4 · Formalise

MoUs and co-led platforms, thematic groups on climate, gender and education, and a digital partnership hub.

The Partnerships Working Group aims for

10+

partnerships a year across private, public and social sectors

It will also pursue policy-linked pilots with government, co-funded or co-executed initiatives with measurable impact, and a Partnership Playbook for the chapter. The group brings together CSR and ESG heads, government liaisons, academics, social enterprise founders and chapter leaders.

Who we work with

Government	MAVIM, district authorities
Academia	SNDT, HSNC, ATLAS
CSR and ecosystem	WTC Mumbai, Samhita, The Great Eastern Shipping Co. (host of the CSR convening)
Events	Invited by AndPurpose to be Networking Partner for its Summit and city Forums in New Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru and Hyderabad

Ways to collaborate

- Co-design a 3–6 month pilot
- Host a roundtable or SDG Forum
- Youth labs, storytelling or research
- Join a working group: climate, women's livelihoods, SSE

Moments from the year

Tap any photo to view it full size.



Residents in conversation at the Resilient Urban Futures convening, Govandi



Residents dancing at the Awaaz Community Centre, Govandi



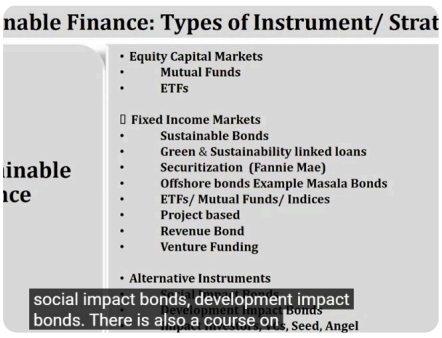
Youth performance at the Resilient Urban Futures convening



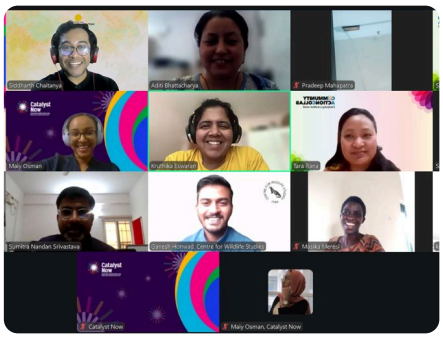
Women residents at the Govandi convening



Speakers at the Skills Lab on AI for Changemakers in APAC



Sustainable finance instruments, from The Evolving Social Finance Sector



Participants at the online Hows of Collaboration writeshop



Panel at Aveti Learning's Social Innovation Day convening



Participants at Aveti Learning's convening



CSR and corporate leaders mapping barriers to collaboration, 1 August 2025



Grouping insights on chart paper, CSR convening



Collaborative Systems Change convening, Great Eastern Shipping head office, Mumbai



Mapping exercise during the CSR convening



Discussion at the Collaborative Systems Change convening



Participants at the Collaborative Systems Change convening



Planning conversation at the Community Design Agency office, Govandi



Youth convening at Parivartan Sheel Sanstha community centre



Young participants listening at Parivartan Sheel Sanstha



Participants of the fundraising strategy workshop with Usha Menon



Fundraising strategy workshop group



Fundraising strategy workshop in session

With thanks to our funders

The year's work was made possible by these institutions and individuals.

Magic Bus Foundation Institutional	**Indus Tree Crafts Foundation** Institutional	**Society for Development Alternatives** Institutional
Educate Girls Institutional	**EMPBindi International Association** Institutional	**Dasra** International
People's Courage International International	**Sanjoy K Roy** Individual	**Sanjay Kumar** Individual

Financials

Funds are held and accounted for by Impact Catalyst Foundation, Bengaluru, as fiscal host. Figures cover 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026.

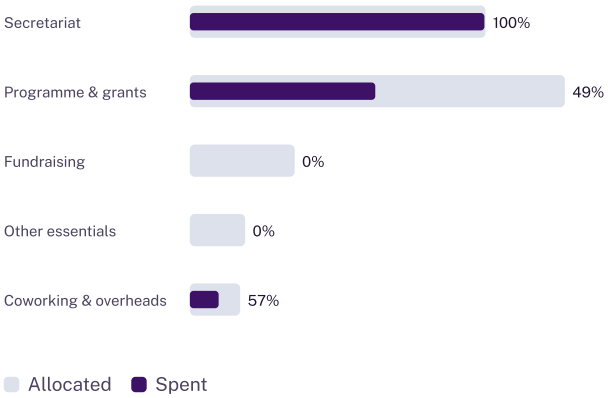
₹11,00,000
received in rupees, plus USD 4,700 from two international funders

₹6,35,229
spent — 58% of rupee funds received

₹4,64,771
carried into 2026–27, plus the USD 4,700

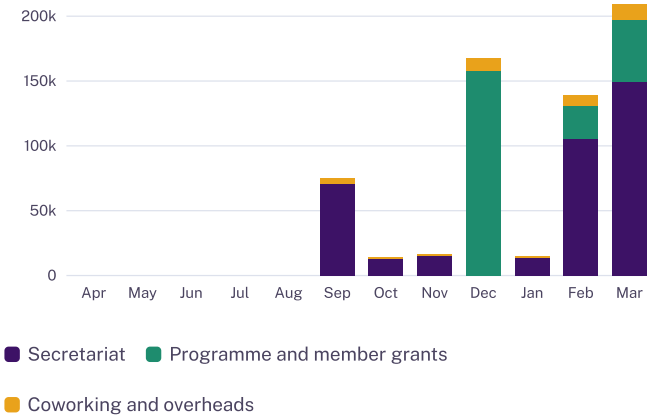
Where the money went

Spending by budget head, against the allocation from funds received.



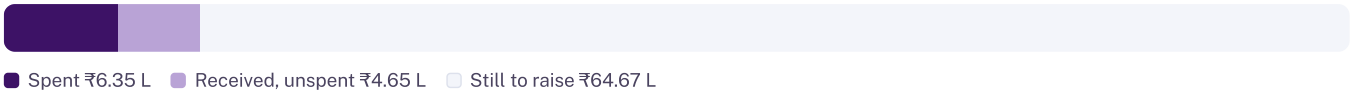
Spending through the year

Monthly expenses. Grants to members drove the December peak.



Progress against the ₹75.67 lakh budget

Rupee funds received this year cover about 15% of the ₹75.67 lakh budget.



No spending was booked this year under Fundraising (₹1.31 L allocated) or Other Essential Expenses (₹0.69 L). Programme spending was ₹2.32 L against an allocation of ₹4.68 L. **Add a line here explaining these variances before publishing.**

Looking ahead to 2026–27

The chapter enters the new year with ₹4.65 lakh and USD 4,700 carried forward. A further ₹1.3 lakh was received in April 2026 from Madhiri Amin for work in Mumbai, completed in June 2026. The revised budget for 2026–27 is ₹5.95 lakh.

The budget leaves a significant gap to close. Building on the member-led model of Social Innovation Day and the corporate conversations begun in August, the chapter will need a dedicated fundraising push this year.

Message from the leadership

To be added. Send the text and it will appear here with the author's name and photograph.

Join the network

Scale your grassroots innovation with a unified network of Indian social innovators.

01

Collaborative infrastructure

Pitch joint projects, share resources and co-build with vetted peers across India's social innovation landscape.

02

Media and growth amplification

Pro bono visibility for members through features, podcasts and editorial reach.

03

Policy and funder bridges

Direct access to CSR funders, policymakers and global networks ready to back your work.

Apply at **catalyst-india.org/join** · Learn more at **catalyst2030.net**

Catalyst Now India · Annual Report 2025–26

Fiscal host: Impact Catalyst Foundation, No. 36, Vinayaka Layout, Bhoopsandra Main Road, Bengaluru, Karnataka 560094.