

Together we have transformed the lives of many.  
In 2024 we continue to do the same, renewing our efforts to  
impact even more vulnerable lives.



## Newsletter - 2024

January - April



HELPING PEOPLE HELP THEMSELVES

[www.concernindiafoundation.org](http://www.concernindiafoundation.org)



# IN THE CEO'S WORDS

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## Where do I begin?

About the school going girls who wax eloquent. The state-of-the-art labs in Government schools. The community routinely accessing public health centres. The teachers who deliver articulate multilingual lectures. The solar panels that dot the nooks and corners of the villages. The pickle making units run by capable SHG's gaining steam. The kitchen gardens spotted in every home. The bustling Anganwadi Centres filled with children and pregnant women.



The long queues at monthly health camps. The refurbished schools, bright and brimming classrooms... What words could do justice to encapsulate the colossal change I've seen?

There was something poetic about my visit into some of the villages of Telangana, that are living testimony to the intense work done and the immense fruit borne of years of effort. My every run-in was the story of new age India – Meena who conducts 'Suraksha' lessons for adolescent girls in Shabad, Malleshham who dropped out from an English medium school to join our newly refurbished Government School, Archana who now runs an independent tailoring unit employing 2 women and Venkata who goes door to door talking about testing for non-communicable diseases.

It was humbling to witness the change we are a part of – and it wouldn't have been possible without the sheer might and motivation of my dear team at the grassroots. With pride in my heart, I bring home a sea of stories...



## Rooting for Greener India



In 2023, Concern India Foundation achieved an incredible milestone by planting a total of 41,500 saplings across India. This is a testament to our commitment to Reviving nature and communities. Thanks to the dedication and hard work of every 'Concernite.' Our efforts continue to make the world a greener and brighter place. Together, we are the driving force for positive change!

## Expanding Access to Quality Healthcare

To enhance the quality of healthcare services, we have recently completed the renovation and inauguration of two health centres in Kanchangaon and Talogha villages, located in Igatpuri taluka, Nashik district. This collaborative project with our corporate partner involved the addition of vaccination rooms at the subcentre. These efforts aim to provide rural communities access to improved and dependable healthcare facilities. Making a positive impact on the lives and well-being of individuals in these communities.





# STORIES OF CHANGE

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## The Transformative Power of Education and Determination

Often, when dreams encounter financial barriers, determination and resilience become the companions that transform obstacles into stepping stones toward success. Karuna Kadam was born in an underprivileged family, with the aspiration of becoming a software developer. Recognizing the challenges she faced in pursuing her dreams and her strong desire to break through her circumstances, Concern



extended a scholarship through our partnering NGO, propelling her academic journey forward. Through her dedication, she carved her academic path, ultimately earning a B.Tech degree. Following rigorous interviews and selection processes, Karuna's hard work bore fruit when Wells Fargo acknowledged her exceptional skills, offering her a position as a software developer in Hyderabad with an impressive annual package of 24 LPA. Karuna's remarkable success stands as a testament to the transformative impact of education and resolute determination.

Our efforts to make a meaningful impact in the lives of vulnerable communities is further strengthened.



## Nurturing Dreams through the Digital Realm

Meet Bandla Naga Raju, a resilient 34 years old from Amodagiripatnam Village, Chirala, Andhra Pradesh. Being unemployed for the longest time he embraced his family's weaving legacy, finding solace in this generational craft.

The pandemic posed challenges for Raju, with dwindling orders and a sluggish market. Post-pandemic, economic struggles persisted for weavers. Recognizing the need for adaptation, Raju joined the training on Market Exposure Programme by Concern India Foundation under the Weavers Project, acquiring skills in content creation and digital marketing.

Venturing online, especially on Facebook, yielded astounding results. Raju now has 3,998 followers and an expanding international clientele, receiving orders from America and Canada. His success showcases the power of support, digital training, and turning adversity into prosperity. It reflects our commitment to quality craftsmanship and fostering self-reliance in our community.



## RECOGNITION OF OUR EFFORTS

### Celebrating Excellence in Sustainable Practices



Our commitment to sustainability and community well-being has been recognized. Concern India Foundation is proud to receive the CSR Excellence Award in Sustainable Practices at the India CSR and Sustainability Conclave 2023. This recognition was presented at the distinguished India Habitat Centre, New Delhi, by Brands Global Media. Our celebrated project is aimed at fostering community-owned conservatories to preserve endangered mangrove species and support local communities. It has been hailed as a profound catalyst for transformative change in sustainable practices. This achievement encourages us to continue the incredible work we do together.



## Commitment to Integrity and Fairness

We're deeply honoured by the recent recognition from the Council of Fair Business Practices (CFBP). Being acknowledged for our efforts is truly humbling. This accolade reaffirms our commitment to upholding integrity and fairness in all aspects of our work.



## Empowering the Visually Impaired



We are honoured to be felicitated by the National Association for the Blind, India (NAB). The prestigious memento of honour was presented to Concern India Foundation in October 2023, by the Governor of Maharashtra, Shri Ramesh Bais, during a ceremony hosted by NAB, India. Our collaboration with NAB has been long-standing, with a dedicated focus on revitalizing their facilities and incorporating solar power solutions to enhance renewable energy accessibility. Concern is committed to fostering education and empowering children with disabilities. Recently we extended support to visually impaired students by providing them with laptops through a scholarship program for undergraduate students.

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# OUR INITIATIVES

## Inter-NGO Sports Meet

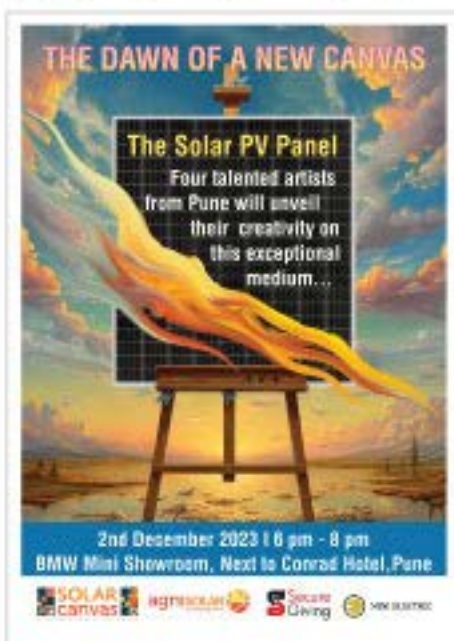
Our Inter-NGO Sports Meet an initiative of Concern India Foundation transformed into a thrilling triathlon event! Held at Priyadarshini Park, Mumbai, 250 children from low income schools joined. There were running, jumping, and ball throw activities. These essential components of children's sports offer a wide range of physical, cognitive, and social benefits. It fosters holistic development to make a lasting impact on young lives. This is just the start of a great initiative to introduce sport and fitness into every child's daily routine.

## Light Up Lives

Music and dance are powerful forms of self-expression. With each note, each step, we witness pure joy. Extremely talented participants took flight on the wings of music and dance at Concern India Foundation's initiative in Mumbai and Delhi. Providing this platform aims to nurture and celebrate talent, fostering encouragement and appreciation.



## Solar Canvas - in aid of Concern India Foundation



"Solar Canvas", a pioneering event celebrating sustainable artistry. Featuring the works of talented artists from Pune – Falguni Gokhale, Gauri Gandhi, Payal Garai, Ruby Jhunjunwala, Sachin Nimbalkar, and Zen Vartan. The exhibition transforms discarded solar panels into captivating canvases, marrying aesthetics with eco-consciousness. This one-of-a-kind initiative showcases the potential of repurposing materials for a greener, more sustainable future, making a revolutionary statement in the fight against climate change. Witness art unfolds as a powerful catalyst for positive environmental impact.

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