

APRIL 2026

NEWSLETTER



This edition of the newsletter **celebrates the power of opportunity and resilience in transforming lives.** From women driving electric autorickshaws and entrepreneurs building sustainable businesses, to Chirala weavers embracing the digital marketplace, each story reflects the impact of empowerment and innovation.

Alongside these initiatives, efforts in environmental restoration, healthcare strengthening, and meaningful corporate engagement highlight the strength of collaboration in creating lasting change. Together, these stories reaffirm Concern's shared **commitment to enabling communities to shape a more secure and hopeful future.**

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Programme Highlights

EV Autos are reshaping the lives of women in Bangalore



Building on the success of its first phase, Concern India Foundation, along with HSBC, has successfully **completed the second phase** of its electric autorickshaw initiative in Bengaluru. The programme has empowered 60 women to date, with 30 women trained in each phase. Through comprehensive **driving and life skills training**, it is creating sustainable livelihood opportunities while contributing to a transition towards clean and inclusive urban mobility.

A comprehensive 50-hour training programme is central to this, equipping participants with the skills and confidence to navigate the roads safely and professionally.

The training combines hands-on driving experience with GPS navigation, ensuring that the women can operate independently and efficiently.

In addition, **the programme emphasises holistic personal development, covering spoken English, decision-making, critical thinking, self-defence and financial literacy**, enabling participants to build confidence both on and off the road.

With the completion of the training, each participant was provided with an electric autorickshaw, enabling immediate and sustainable livelihoods. For many, shaped by personal hardships, this marked a turning point—taking control of their paths, supporting their families, and stepping into spaces once out of reach.

Super 20 Training: Women Step into Entrepreneurship with Self-Belief



For many women, entrepreneurship begins as a necessity, but with the right support, it becomes a pathway to stability, growth and long-term success. **Over the past five years**, the Sankalp programme has expanded its impact across Navi Mumbai, empowering women entrepreneurs to **build, strengthen, and scale sustainable businesses** while preparing them to meet regulatory and market standards.

Concern India Foundation conducted an intensive Entrepreneurship Development Initiative, **training 107 women**; selected for their strong intent, willingness to learn and readiness to scale.

These women moved beyond basic training to gain a deeper understanding of their businesses through self-assessments and realistic goal-setting. Through the workshop, they developed **key financial decision-making skills, including tracking income and expenses, pricing products effectively and identifying their customer base.**

This foundation in financial planning is helping their businesses become more structured and sustainable. Each participant left with a clear business plan and the confidence to implement it. There has been a visible shift; women who once hesitated are now making informed decisions, managing finances proactively, planning ahead, and exploring opportunities to expand their enterprises.



From Loom to Login: Chirala Weavers Go Digital

Concern India Foundation has long been working alongside the weaving community in Chirala, where the steady rhythm of the loom has defined both livelihood and identity. As traditional wholesale and retail markets declined, generations of weavers faced shrinking incomes and an uncertain future, yet the market had not vanished; it had simply moved online. To help artisans make this shift, **220 weavers were trained in digital skills to expand their businesses and reach new customers.**

Building on this foundation, our engagement this quarter has taken a decisive step forward. As reported in our last newsletter, digital literacy was identified as a critical pillar of the intervention, and that vision is now being put into practice. This quarter, artisans received hands-on digital training that equipped them with sustainable skills and opportunities for long-term growth.

Weavers are now creating and managing business pages on Facebook, Instagram and YouTube, developing their own brand identities, and showcasing their textiles through compelling photographs. This has helped artisans navigate the digital marketplace with growing confidence.

The training programme covers:

- Social media management
- Customer engagement and communication
- Packaging and product presentation
- Delivery and order coordination

Today, a Chirala weaver is not just a craftsman but also a brand owner and entrepreneur. While the loom remains at the heart of their work, **digital savviness helps ensure this rich tradition continues to thrive in a modern world.**

Returning to Muthupet Felt Like Coming Home

I remembered the early days of planting mangrove saplings, how our feet would sink into the wet earth and we'd laugh at ourselves trying to stay upright. Uncertain, off-balance, yet hopeful about the change we were about to bring. The women around me didn't just help plant saplings; they held the entire project together.

One year later, standing here now, I feel overwhelmed and filled with a gratitude that's hard to put into words.

100 hectares of mangrove cover restored. Over 200 women with new pathways to income. And something so special that no words can capture it, their confidence, their voice, and a sense of belonging to something that truly matters.

The coastline is now more protected. The community is more rooted. And the work, which once felt fragile and uncertain, has grown into something that genuinely holds.

What has stayed with me most after this visit wasn't just the scale of what's been done. It was the conversations, the memories I revisited with the women of the community, who remember those early days as clearly as I do, who have watched this landscape change and felt themselves change alongside it.

Muthupet reminded me why this work matters. Not just for the land, but for what happens when people are trusted to shape their own futures. I left with more purpose than I arrived with. That, I think, is the best kind of field visit.

- Anupama A., Programmes Lead





A Visit That Reflected Small Changes Go A Long Way

When healthcare systems are strengthened with care and intent, the impact is deeply felt in the lives they heal. My recent visit to the PHCs in Nagapattinam, Tamil Nadu, was to review the progress and witness the transformation of everyday healthcare.

Through this initiative, 3 PHCs have been strengthened through a combination of medical and non-medical equipment, infrastructure upgrades, renewable energy solutions, and critical repairs. Together, **these centres now serve nearly 80,000 people.**

At Voimedu, a simple waiting shed and a tiled pathway provided good accessibility. In Ayarkarnapulam, a refurbished labour room and newly installed solar panels reflected safety and resilience in a region where both are crucial.

At Kariyapatinam, the impact was quite visible. Improved lab equipment has enabled faster and more accurate diagnoses. Something as basic as a washing machine supports hygiene. Fetal dopplers were handed over to 13 nurses serving multiple villages, as they are the first and only point of contact for expectant mothers. They are now better equipped to ensure safer pregnancies and deliveries, bringing reassurance to countless mothers.

Each of these additions, simple yet vital, has made a huge difference by strengthening the access, dignity and possibility of how thoughtful interventions can ripple outward.

- Maria P., Fundraising Manager

Employee Engagement



Volunteers Inspire Young Minds Across India

From Pune to Bangalore, Hyderabad, and Greater Noida, volunteers brought classrooms to life with creativity and hands-on learning. Students explored AI and coding, STEM experiments, and fun activities like “Bounce the Ball” and “Big Buffalo” to sharpen language skills. Math came alive through a Profit and Loss session, while science sparked curiosity with a student-made electric circuit.

Beyond academics, volunteers led empathy-building exercises such as blindfolded cooking with visually impaired children, encouraged cultural exchanges, and supported vocational training by purchasing student-made handicrafts. These experiences not only boosted confidence, teamwork, and critical thinking but also strengthened bonds between employees and communities, reflecting a commitment to empowering young learners and driving meaningful social impact.

Corporate Engagement at Kadugodi Tree Park



At Kadugodi Bengaluru Tree Park, a total of **22 percolation tanks were constructed to support groundwater recharge** and strengthen local water conservation efforts. These structures play a crucial role in capturing and channelling rainwater back into the soil, contributing to the long-term sustainability of the surrounding ecosystem.

To make the initiative more engaging, volunteers participated in a lid painting activity for the tanks. This hands-on experience allowed them to witness the impact of the work while creatively contributing to the project. The activity not only fostered awareness around water conservation but also built a strong sense of connection and responsibility towards environmental sustainability.

Story that Inspires

K. Maheshwari, a 47-year-old widow from Karisakkadu village in Thamarai-kottai South Panchayat, Thanjavur District, has long supported her family through agricultural labour and work under the MGNREGA scheme. As the primary caregiver at home, she managed her responsibilities with determination, despite limited and uncertain income.



Her journey took a positive turn through the Mangrove Restoration Project by creating new livelihoods that were previously not possible.

"I want to grow my herd and earn steadily. It gives me confidence that I can support myself and inspire other women to do the same." - Maheshwari

Under this initiative, Maheshwari **received financial assistance of ₹15,000, which she supplemented with ₹5,000 from her savings to start a small goat-rearing enterprise.** She also underwent training that equipped her with essential livestock management skills.

Beginning with three goats, soon expanding her herd to six within a few months, goat rearing has become a dependable and manageable source of income.

Today, Maheshwari stands as a quiet example of self-reliance in her community. Her initiative has encouraged other women to explore similar livelihood opportunities. With plans to gradually expand her herd, she looks forward to a more secure and independent future for her family.

Concern Day Celebration



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Behind every story you read is a life transformed—made possible by collective action and sustained commitment.