

*The U.S.-India Friendship Alliance (USIFA) is the philanthropic arm of the
U.S.–India Strategic Partnership Forum.*



USIFA Impact Brief

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01 | USIFA Program Spotlight and Expert Interview

The [U.S.-India Friendship Alliance \(USIFA\)](#), in partnership with [The Asia Foundation \(TAF\)](#), was proud to support the participation of an Indian diplomat in TAF's Young Asian Diplomats Program, held from October 3-16, 2026. This participation was made possible through the generous contribution of the Dash family. The diplomat, an Under Secretary nominated by India's Ministry of External Affairs, joined peers from across Asia in a program that builds lasting professional ties among the region's next generation of foreign policy leaders.

In addition to the formal program, USIFA hosted the Under Secretary for meetings in Washington across the government, nonprofit, and corporate sectors.

USIFA is also pleased to share an expert interview with Laurel E. Miller, President and CEO of The Asia Foundation. She discusses the Young Asian Diplomats Program, the state of U.S.-India ties, and why cross-border exchanges matter more than ever.

[Watch the interview](#)

To learn more about the Young Asian Diplomats Program, or to support programs like it, please contact USIFA at friendshipalliance@usispf.org.



02 | Members in Action: Mphasis

The Digital Naukri Challenge (DNC)

The/Nudge Prize initiative, in partnership with Mphasis

Launched in November 2024, the Digital Naukri Challenge by The/Nudge Prize is an 18-month initiative testing whether flexible, tech-enabled work models can unlock location-independent digital jobs for women across India. With over 200 million women—including 88 million educated individuals aged 25 to 40—remaining at home due to social norms, mobility barriers, and caregiving duties, the grand challenge aims to build evidence for location-free livelihoods. Powered by Mphasis, the challenge features a prize purse of ₹6.5 crore to drive breakthrough solutions.

Selected from roughly 200 applicants, 11 organizations piloted models across BPO, data annotation, agritech, rural healthcare, and edtech, testing viability with 500 women each. Evaluated by an independent monitoring and evaluation partner, the top four challengers—Futwork, B2R Technologies, Myna Mahila Foundation, and Karya—were awarded ₹35 lakh each and advanced to the scalability phase.

From the ₹6.5 crore total prize purse, the winner and runner-up will receive ₹3 crore and ₹1 crore, respectively, for demonstrating sustainable scale. Building on the several thousand digital livelihoods already created, the Digital Naukri Challenge aims to provide the catalytic bridge capital that unlocks a surge of flexible, home-based opportunities for home-bound women.



Key Impact Metrics:

11 Challenger organizations (of ~200 applicants)	6 Sectors of digital work	2,000+ * Digital jobs generated to date* <i>*Measured and validated through a midline evaluation by an independent M&E partner</i>	25 * States reached <i>*Measured and validated through a midline evaluation by an independent M&E partner</i>
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03 | Events and Updates

New Research on Indian American Philanthropy: The Bridgespan Group has released new research examining what shapes and what limits Indian American diaspora giving. The study finds that giving is closely linked to identity, belonging, and passing values on to the next generation. Donors also named obstacles to giving effectively in India, including finding high-impact organizations, building trust, and navigating cross-border regulations. The study also notes that Indian Americans volunteer at three times the U.S. national average and that diaspora giving reached \$4 billion to \$5 billion in 2024. Source: The Bridgespan Group, “Indian American Philanthropy: Strengthening Values and Community Across Generations,” September 2026. (bridgespan.org)

What U.S. Funders Should Know About India’s New FCRA Rules: New amendment rules under India’s Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act took effect on June 22, 2026, adding registration, disclosure, governance, and reporting requirements for Indian nonprofits that receive foreign funds. Grantees funded through donor-advised funds, intermediaries, or other U.S. 501(c)(3) organizations must now report the ultimate donor’s name, address, and email. Organizations already registered must file Form FC-6F by June 21, 2027, to keep their registration. A separate FCRA Amendment Bill is under review by a Joint Parliamentary Committee and is not currently law. Source: Council on Foundations, “2026 Amendments to India’s Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA),” August 2026. (cof.org)

New U.S. Charitable Deduction Rules Ahead of Year-End Giving: Changes to federal charitable deduction rules under the One Big Beautiful Bill Act apply beginning with the 2026 tax year. Taxpayers who take the standard deduction can now deduct up to \$1,000 in cash gifts to qualifying charities, or \$2,000 for married couples filing jointly. Itemizers may deduct only contributions above 0.5 percent of adjusted gross income, and corporations may deduct only contributions above 1 percent of taxable income. Donors may wish to

consult a tax advisor when planning year-end gifts. Source: Taft Law, “Charitable Giving After the OBBBA: The 2026 Outlook,” April 2026. (taftlaw.com)

04 | Get Involved

Join us in building stronger ties between the United States and India through impactful programs, partnership, and people-to-people ties. Whether you’re looking to collaborate, invest, or learn more, we welcome the opportunity to connect.

Reach us at friendshipalliance@usispf.org, visit us at usifa.org, and follow our work on LinkedIn.

Missed a previous edition? Browse our newsletter archive [here](#).

