

USIFA Impact Brief



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

May 8, 2026

01 | A NOTE FROM LEADERSHIP

Dear Friends, Partners, and Members,

Welcome to the inaugural issue of the **U.S.-India Friendship Alliance Impact Brief**.

The U.S.-India Friendship Alliance (USIFA) was founded on the premise that people-to-people ties are at the heart of a strong and enduring U.S.-India relationship. As the philanthropic arm of the [U.S.-India Strategic Partnership Forum](#), we bring together companies, foundations, and partners across both countries to advance shared opportunity and deepen these connections.

Today, both the United States and India are home to dynamic ecosystems of strategic giving and corporate responsibility. Together, they present a powerful opportunity to scale solutions, build partnerships, and drive meaningful, lasting impact.

This newsletter offers a window into that work — highlighting programs, approaches, and ideas shaping the future of U.S.-India philanthropy and social impact. It also offers an opportunity to get involved in the “Call to Action” section.

At USIFA, we are committed to enhancing the U.S.-India partnership by investing in people, expending talent pathways, building community resilience, and fostering cultural and civic exchange.

We hope this newsletter serves as a welcome connection point.



Kate Bollinger

Executive Director, USIFA



Lalitambika Kumari

Manager for Higher Education, CSR, and
Parliamentary Engagements (India)

02 | USIFA PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

Crafts Village: Connecting Indian Artisans with Global Design



USIFA is partnering with **Women Forward International** to develop a Crafts Village in Aurangabad, India. This initiative brings economic opportunities to rural women artisans while simultaneously preserving traditional crafts and economically revitalizing a region through establishment of a tourism hub.

The project trains women weavers in historic regional crafts including **Himroo shawls, Paithani sarees, and Bidri work**, and builds international pathways for these products. Through a unique collaboration with **Parsons School of Design in New York**, students are working with artisans and local partners to develop strategies that expand market access—particularly in the United States. Their products are available through [Zarizar](#).

“Before this training, I was at home with no source of income and little sense of direction. When I joined the Himroo weaving program, everything began to change... Today, I am working full-time as a Himroo weaver and earning a steady livelihood. More than that, I genuinely love what I do. This craft has given me confidence, independence, and a renewed sense of identity. I now wake up every day motivated, knowing I am building a better future for myself.”

— DEEPALI, PROGRAM PARTICIPANT

[Follow this link](#) for more participant testimonies.

03 | MEMBERS IN ACTION: CORPORATE MEMBER SPOTLIGHTS

Livelihoods and Skills Development: Across the U.S.-India corridor, companies are investing in skills development and livelihood generation to support resilient, economically secure communities. In this

section, we spotlight two standout initiatives from USISPF member companies demonstrating how targeted, industry-led collaboration can expand opportunity at scale.

DJ CATERPILLAR FOUNDATION

In 2023, the [Caterpillar Foundation](#) awarded a grant to Vidhyalay Udhyam Association to implement the School Innovation and Entrepreneurship Program, equipping students in rural Rajasthan, India, with hands-on STEM training, design thinking and entrepreneurship skills by creating Maker Labs in local schools. Caterpillar Foundation has supported the creation of 6 labs across Rajasthan to support community-driven learning and innovation. Since then, the Vidyalaya Udhyam has created more than 20 Maker Labs across the state, serving more than 10,000 students, with participants winning prizes at national competitions.



Maker Lab supported by the Caterpillar Foundation



Maker Lab supported by the Caterpillar Foundation

DJ HCLTECH

[HCLFoundation](#) (delivering CSR agenda of HCLTech in India) has worked to create long-term, community-led impact through integrated development programs across livelihoods, education, health, environment, and social inclusion. Through flagship programs such as Samuday, Uday, Harit, HCLTech Grant, and My Clean City along with special initiatives like Power of One, My E-Haat, Sports for Change, and Academy, they work across both rural and urban geographies to improve access, expand opportunities, strengthen local systems, and support community resilience.

[My E-Haat](#) is a special initiative focused on strengthening livelihoods and supporting India's artisan economy. So far, the initiative has engaged over 5,500 artisans across several clusters and districts, with nearly 70% women participants, creating stronger pathways to economic participation and self-reliance.



Tradition in their hands, enterprise in their future — Kalamkari artisans from Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh under My E-Haat initiative

This work is complemented by HCLTech's broader CSR efforts, including in the United States, where employee volunteerism and strategic partnerships continue to support community wellbeing. HCLTech has partnered with Girl Up to advance youth leadership and gender equity through STEAM, engaging over 600 young leaders globally across 15 countries. Through the Climate Action Grant, HCLTech has committed US\$5 million over five years to support NGOs across the Americas working on climate action.



HCLTech employees volunteering at a community grocery facility to support food distribution through organizing supplies, sanitizing shelves, and removing expired items.

04 | CALL TO ACTION: USIFA PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

World Food Movement

The U.S.-India Friendship Alliance invites anchor partnerships for a high-impact community support initiative in Washington, DC, undertaken in partnership with the World Food Movement — a program inspired by the globally recognized Akshaya Patra model in India. Over a 12-month pilot, the program will deliver **60,000 meals** to some of the capital’s most vulnerable college students, Title I elementary school children, and individuals experiencing homelessness.

WHY THIS MATTERS

- Strengthens Communities Through Direct Support.** When children, students, and communities can depend on consistent, nutritious food, they gain the foundation they need to thrive.
- Supports Workforce Readiness.** For community college students balancing employment, family, and tuition, reliable access to nutrition is directly tied to retention and academic success.
- Provides Meaningful Employee Engagement Opportunities.** Hands-on volunteer opportunities in Washington, DC, will lead to direct community impact.
- Drives Measurable Change and Scales for Impact.** Anchor partners will be a part of a high-impact, visible engagement opportunity with built-in scalability for other priority U.S. locations.

Partner With Us →

05 | THE BIGGER PICTURE

Why This Moment Matters

\$592.5B

Total U.S. charitable giving in 2024 — a record high

\$14.5B

Indian CSR spending between 2014 and 2024

+17.7%

Growth in U.S. giving to international affairs — 2nd highest subsector

The U.S.-India relationship rightly draws significant attention at higher levels including trade negotiations, defense partnerships, and technology agreements. What deserves equal focus are the underpinnings of this: the connections between communities, institutions, and individuals that give a bilateral relationship its texture and staying power.

The philanthropic capacity on both sides of this relationship is itself worth attention. According to [Giving USA’s Annual Report on Philanthropy](#), the United States remains the global benchmark in charitable giving. India, meanwhile, made history in 2013 as the first country to legally mandate corporate social responsibility spending — with 63% of \$14.5B in CSR spent from 2020–2024 alone.

Two of the world's largest economies, with deep cultures of giving and growing institutional frameworks to direct it, present significant opportunities for impact. People-to-people exchange, community development, and educational partnerships are critical to bilateral relationships—these don't happen automatically. They follow the money, and increasingly, the money is there.

06 | NEWS IN THE U.S.-INDIA PHILANTHROPIC SPACE

Diaspora Philanthropy on the Rise

March 13, 2026, marked the fourth annual India Giving Day. 51 nonprofits joined the India Philanthropy Alliance's annual campaign, together raising \$5.6 million from over 2,300 donors. More than 60 events were held across the United States, drawing over 3,500 people with over 1,000 first-time donors participating. Indian American philanthropic giving has grown from \$1 billion to an estimated \$4–5 billion annually over the past six years.

[Read more →](#)

India Philanthropy Report 2026

According to the 2026 India Philanthropy Report by Bain and Dasra, India's social sector funding gap stood at nearly \$180 billion in FY25 and may widen to \$210 billion by FY30. The Indian diaspora — now accounting for about 34 million people globally — is increasing philanthropic investment.

[Read more →](#)

Youth Essay Competition

The India Philanthropic Alliance (IPA) has announced its 7th Annual Youth Essay Competition: #YouthWithPurpose, inviting middle and high school students across the U.S. to discuss the most pressing issues faced by India today. **Submission deadline: July 1, 2026.**

[Read more →](#)

India's Employability Hits a New High

India's overall employability rate climbed from 54.81% in 2025 to 56.35% in 2026, according to the India Skills Report 2026. Women's employability (54%) surpassed men's (51.5%) for the first time, driven by hybrid work and digital skilling. India now holds roughly 16% of global AI talent, with 600,000+ AI professionals. This growing talent base strengthens the case for U.S.-India workforce partnerships.

[Read more →](#)

07 | GET INVOLVED

Whether you're interested in learning more about our work, exploring a partnership, or finding ways to support U.S.-India exchange, we'd love to hear from you. Reach us at friendshipalliance@usispf.org, visit us at usifa.org, and follow our work on [LinkedIn](#).

 **Email Us****Visit Website** **Follow on LinkedIn**

U.S.-India Friendship Alliance · 2550 M Street NW, Washington, DC 20037

Please feel free to forward this newsletter to your contacts. To subscribe or learn more, write to us at friendshipalliance@usispf.org.

[Unsubscribe](#)