

It is scale that can move the needle of transformation. For which partnerships & collaborations are a must

# The Next Stretch, India@100



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Our nation is among the fastest-growing major economies in the world. As we celebrate 75 years of Independence today, we have a lot to be proud about. Be it the plethora of inclusive government schemes or efforts by the social sector to impact lives at the last mile or technology that is making inroads in remote geographies.

But as we enter the 25 years leading to 100 years of independent India, we need to look hard at a fact that could slow India's transformative change — 25.01% of our population still remains multidimensionally poor. Real transformation of India will happen when we are able to keep this section of our population at the centre of all solutions and include them in India's growth journey.

India's people and public systems have enough power to make a complete socioeconomic transformation in India@100. While this appears rather daunting, we have 25 years to achieve this. The need of the hour is for some big ideas that can unleash trans-

formation at scale and speed.

Our focus has to be centred on deeply endemic issues that India has not been able to resolve despite best efforts over the past 75 years. Some of the most intractable problems that pervade the regions where the 25.01% reside are:

- ▶ Intergenerational cycle of poverty.
- ▶ Lack of access to quality education and healthcare.
- ▶ Inadequate inclusion of women.

Transformational change can happen when we do good at a scale through a platform approach, leveraging diverse financial resources and expertise from a cross-section of partners to strengthen systems and reach every person. Government — both at the Centre and at the state levels — cannot achieve transformation alone. Nor can any one corporate or social sector player. For this, partnerships and collaborations are necessary. Because when we have 1.3 billion people — the United

**BIG IDEAS REQUIRE SOCIAL & CORPORATE SECTORS TO BE DEEPLY INVESTED IN UNLOCKING SOCIOECONOMIC POTENTIAL**

Nations projecting India's population to grow to 1.64 billion — it is scale that can move the needle.

It is heartening to note that this shift has already begun to happen, be it the Aspirational Districts Collaborative to impact lives in 112 aspirational districts or the Tribal Health Collaborative to transform lives in remote tribal geographies. Out-of-the-box thinking and innovation will certainly fast-track the pace of transformation. But this entails taking risks.

This is where the private sector can play a leading role, as a partner in India's development. Big Ideas require the social and corporate sectors to be deeply invested in unlocking India's socioeconomic potential by bringing their strengths and support to arrive at the shared destination.

The path to sabka vikas is to reaffirm our commitment to sabka saath, sabka prayas.

▶ Hyperlocal collaboration. Ours is a vast and diverse nation with unique populations and locale-specific challenges. India, thus, has to be built by Indians with solutions that emerge through local collaborators at the grassroots.

▶ Strengthening public systems. For transformation to be propelled by our government officials, developing a cadre of leaders inspired to drive this change is of critical importan-



**Azadi ka hai fit**

ce. Additionally, leveraging and optimising technology will ensure that millions of our citizens can access and benefit from the host of government schemes.

▶ Youth as nation builders. India has one of the youngest populations globally. And what better way to secure a strong future than by tapping the vast potential and passion of youth through deep-dive, experiential fellowships geared to letting their leadership abilities and compassion emerge.

▶ Disproportionate representation of the vulnerable. A large percentage of our underserved populations comprises women who do not have adequate agency. Ensuring disproportionate representation for women on platforms that matter at the

grassroots can go a long way in reversing marginalisation. Additionally, building the learning and knowledge, and honing the innate leadership skills of these groups so that their voices are heard and also featured at the forefront, will prove to be a game changer.

An India@100 should be a land of equal opportunities for all. An India that is a force to reckon with. An India where every person, no matter who she is and where she is, is truly experiencing transformation.

We have to build a formidable India together. Our shared goal and collective determination must be our driving purpose, our big ideas the fuel, and the spirit of sewa bhaav the wind beneath India's wings on its flight to greater heights.