

16th Social Entrepreneur of the Year Award India 2025



From L to R - Simanchala Dash, Shereen Bhan, Nagakarthish MP, Shyam S Bhartia, Sumita Ghose, Suresh Prabhu, Dr Kalpana Sankar, Piyush Tewari, Hari S Bhartia, Anshu Bhartia, Trang Vergari, Vivek Prakash

The Jubilant Bhartia Foundation and the Schwab Foundation for Social Entrepreneurship, the sister organization of the World Economic Forum, today honoured Mr Piyush Tewari of SaveLIFE Foundation with the esteemed Social Entrepreneur of the Year Award - India 2025. The award was presented by Shri Suresh Prabhu, Former Union Minister in the presence of distinguished personalities from policy, business, academia and civil society at a ceremony held at New Delhi.

Minister Prabhu said, “The greater contribution of all the social entrepreneurs is truly commendable. My congratulations to all finalists. The final goal is to make all lives happy. Social institutions are essential for the betterment of society. Today’s program will be another accelerator in that direction. I feel fortunate to be here — among those who are

working to make the lives of others better.”

Ms Shereen Bhan, Managing Editor, CNBC TV18 presented the stories of the four finalists and unfolded their inspiring and innovative journey.



From L to R: Shaym Bhartia, Suresh Prabhu, Hari Bhartia, Anshu Gupta

JURY MEMBERS



Hilde Schwab

Co-Founder & Chairperson, Schwab Foundation for Social Entrepreneurship



Shobhana Bhartia

Chairperson & Editorial Director, HT Media Ltd



Aashti Bhartia

Non-Executive Director
Jubilant Foodworks Ltd



Geetanjali Kirloskar

Chairperson and Managing Director,
Kirloskar Systems Limited



Harish Arnezath

Regional Director, Stanford Seed, India



Aanand Sri Ganesh

CEO, NSRCEL, IIM Bangalore



Akshay Saxena

Founder, Avanti Fellows
(Winner SEOY 2024)



Girish Aivalli

CEO, India Impact Investor Council

WINNER

Piyush Tewari

SaveLIFE Foundation

Headquartered in: New Delhi

Established in: 2008

Area of Activity: Public Health

Website: Savelifefoundation.org

To address one of India's most urgent public health and safety challenges, **SaveLIFE Foundation** has pioneered a comprehensive approach to road safety and trauma care. Each year, road crashes claim nearly 175,000 lives and injure over 500,000 people in India—disproportionately affecting low-income communities and vulnerable road users such as pedestrians, cyclists, and two-wheeler riders. These incidents not only result in physical harm but also trigger long-term poverty, financial instability, and emotional trauma, especially for women and families.

SaveLIFE Foundation's flagship initiative, the **Zero-Fatality Solution (ZFS)**, is a data-driven model deployed across 36 highways and 21 districts in 16 states. It integrates road engineering, law enforcement, emergency response, and community engagement to reduce crash fatalities by up to 67% on key corridors. The model is designed to strengthen existing public systems rather than replace them, making it highly scalable and cost-efficient.

SLF's two-pronged strategy—**frontline action** and **systemic reform**—has led to landmark policy changes such as the **Good Samaritan Law (2016)** and amendments to the **Motor Vehicles Act (2019)**. These reforms have empowered citizens to assist crash victims without fear of legal repercussions, improving emergency response and community resilience nationwide.

What makes SLF's approach transformative is its **catalytic funding model**, where every ₹1 invested unlocks ₹20–₹350 in public funding. For example, a ₹16 crore investment on the Mumbai-Pune Expressway mobilised ₹325 crore in government funding for road safety infrastructure. The organisation also leverages technology—AI, crash analytics,



Suresh Prabhu, Former Cabinet Minister, Government of India, presenting the Social Entrepreneur of the Year Award-India 2025 to Piyush Tewari, SaveLife Foundation

and real-time monitoring—to sharpen interventions and measure impact.

SLF's work has directly impacted over **196 million road users** through safer commutes, improved trauma care systems, and strengthened public awareness. Vulnerable road users benefit most, gaining access to safer infrastructure, faster emergency response, and stronger enforcement. Families are spared the devastating economic and emotional consequences of road crashes, and communities are empowered to take ownership of safety outcomes.

As India continues to urbanise and expand its road networks, SaveLIFE Foundation's model offers a replicable and sustainable blueprint for inclusive development. By embedding safety into infrastructure, policy, and public consciousness, SLF is not only saving lives but also reshaping how India approaches mobility, equity, and public health.

FINALISTS

Dr. Kalpana Sankar

Hand in Hand India

Headquartered in: Tamil Nadu

Established in: 2004

Website: hihindia.org

Area of Activity: Hand in Hand India empowers marginalized communities—especially women and children—through a five-pillar model focused on job creation, education, skill development, healthcare, and environmental sustainability. Their Self-Help Group (SHG) model has supported over 6.3 million women with access to credit, entrepreneurship training, and market linkages. The organisation also runs Belstar Microfinance, which has disbursed loans worth over ₹10,000 crores, enabling rural women to build and scale micro-enterprises.



Impact: Hand in Hand India has mainstreamed over 350,000 children into formal education through its Child Labour Elimination Programme and created more than 10.8 million jobs via microfinance and enterprise development. Their Recycle for Life initiative has generated over 9,000 green jobs by training women sanitary workers in sustainable waste management. With over 500,000 individuals trained in digital literacy and financial inclusion, the organisation continues to drive scalable, community-led development across India.

Nagakarthik MP

Sauramandala Foundation

Headquartered in: Meghalaya

Established in: 2018

Website: sauramandala.org

Area of Activity: Sauramandala Foundation bridges the gap between policy design and grassroots realities in India's Northeast. Through its Centre for Accelerated Development (CFAD), the organisation co-creates solutions with communities and governments to address systemic challenges in health, education, livelihoods, and entrepreneurship. Their approach integrates gender equity and climate resilience into scalable models tailored for remote and vulnerable regions.



Impact: Sauramandala Foundation's initiatives have directly impacted over 10,000 youth through Chief

Minister's Youth Centres, reached 4,000 children via early education programs, and supported 20,000 farms with sloping land technology. Their beekeeping master training has empowered 6,000 trainers, while solar-powered health centres across Meghalaya ensure uninterrupted care. With USD 500K in catalytic funding unlocking USD 15 million in government support, SMF is driving systems change through evidence-based, community-led development.

Sumita Ghose

Rangsutra Crafts India

Headquartered in: New Delhi

Established in: 2006

Website: rangsutra.com

Area of Activity: Rangsutra empowers rural artisans—especially women by connecting them to global markets through inclusive, sustainable craft-based livelihoods. As a public limited company with 25% artisan ownership, Rangsutra promotes equitable employment by combining traditional skills with modern design, quality control, and market access. The organisation works across Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, and Gujarat, engaging artisans in nine craft techniques.



Impact: In 2023-24, Rangsutra employed 1,956 artisans (80% women), with weavers earning over ₹10,600 per month—more than double the national average. Nearly 989 artisans received skill and design training, generating ₹41.78 lakh in human capital value. With over 8,000 artisans engaged across seven states, Rangsutra is fostering economic empowerment, social inclusion, and environmental sustainability through fair wages, ownership, and climate-conscious practices.

Glimpses of the Award ceremony



Shyam S Bhartia delivering his address



Video Message from Hilde Schwab



Shereen Bhan of CNBC, TV18



Special Address by Anshu Gupta, Founder, Goonj



Address by Chief Guest, Suresh Prabhu, Union Cabinet Minister, Government of India



Hari S Bhartia addressing the gathering



Finalists



Audience

Glimpses of the Award ceremony



For further details get in touch with:

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