

We build



WE BUILD Habitat For Humanity India Monthly Newsletter | January 2024

FROM THE NATIONAL DIRECTOR'S DESK

Dear Friends,

Greetings from Habitat for Humanity India!

As we step into the dawn of a new year, it's with immense gratitude and heartfelt appreciation that we reflect upon the incredible journey we have collectively embarked upon at Habitat for Humanity India. Your unwavering support, dedication, and commitment to our vision of building homes and transforming lives have been the cornerstone of our success in the past year.

Together, we have woven stories of hope and resilience, each brick laid symbolising not just the construction of a house but the creation of a haven, a sanctuary for families to thrive and build their futures. Your contributions—be it through time, resources, or advocacy—have been the driving force behind every foundation poured and every roof raised. Each step taken in solidarity has brought us closer to realising the dream of a world where everyone has a decent place to call home.

In 2023, we also celebrated a significant milestone, commemorating 40 years dedicated to our mission of constructing homes, fostering communities, and nurturing hope. As we turn the page to a new chapter, we eagerly anticipate continuing this impactful journey alongside you. With your steadfast support, we are determined to amplify our efforts, expand our reach, and touch more lives in the year ahead. The challenges may be great, but so is our resolve and collective spirit to create a lasting change in the communities we work with.

The coming year holds the promise of new partnerships, innovative solutions, and further strides towards ensuring shelter for all. We are excited about the possibilities that lie ahead and are deeply grateful to have you standing alongside us, as we embark on this path together.

Thank you for being an integral part of our mission. Your generosity, compassion, and dedication exemplify the true spirit of humanity, and it is through this shared commitment that we will continue to build not just homes, but brighter futures, one brick at a time.

Wishing you and your families a Happy New Year!



With heartfelt gratitude, James Samuel National Director (Interim) Habitat for Humanity India

VOICES FROM THE FIELD



Illuminating Dhagadwadi School Amidst the Hills

The radiant smiles adorning the faces of the students of Zilla Parishad Primary School, Dhagadwadi, narrate a compelling tale of how the introduction of solar energy has propelled them towards embracing digital learning. Vaishnavi, a vibrant fourth-grade student, eagerly expresses her delight in experiencing a well-lit classroom, emphasising the profound impact it has made in enhancing their educational journey.

When asked what the best thing about her school is, she says, "My teacher and... solar."

For Vaishnavi and her classmates, the solar panels have made their days brighter. Earlier, the school located on top of Dhagadwadi hill - ('Dhag' means cloud in Marathi), did not have access to electricity, for days during the daunting power cuts in the monsoon. This single-teacher school, with a total strength of 14, now has uninterrupted access to electricity and digital learning throughout the day.

Habitat for Humanity India has partnered with Atos Prayas Foundation in facilitating the installation of off-grid solar panels in Zilla Parishad schools located in the Khed block of Maharashtra. The project encourages schools to use renewable sources of energy, enabling these educational institutions to maintain a consistent and self-sufficient power supply, free from reliance on the local grid. The Zilla Parishad Primary School at Dhagadwadi stands as an example among the 24 schools that have collaborated with Habitat India and Atos Prayas Foundation to achieve complete energy self-sufficiency through renewable means.

Ms. Laxmi Bhangra, the only teacher in the school, shared the difficulties of the power supply outages, and how it affected the learning of children. "Due to constant power outages, I had to rely on my mobile phone for digital teaching, which would also eventually run out of charge. Since it's a single-teacher school, it is quite difficult to engage all the students at the same time without the aid of digital tools. Now that we have access to solar power throughout the day, I handle e-learning classes for a few students; through a television connected to my mobile phone, while sitting with others to focus on their coursework. This way, I can pay attention to each child and make learning a unique experience for them."

"In a classroom that's located on the hilltop, it becomes very important to have a well-lit classroom. There were times when the power outage would go on for days and we would sit in the classroom with some candles to keep the room bright. The chances of insects or reptiles like snakes entering the classroom are high and a well-lit classroom helps us protect our students better. Now that we have access to electricity throughout the day, villagers also approach us to charge their devices during emergencies."

Access to solar energy has lifted the clouds of darkness from the Dhagadwadi school. It now shines brightly over the hills, regardless of rainy days or power outages.

KEY UPDATES

Handover of 55 sanitation units in Ghaziabad and Khed under project 'Let's Build a House'



In a joint effort towards making a significant impact in providing better sanitation facilities to improve lives, Habitat for Humanity India and LG, under the housing and sanitation project 'Let's Build a House', celebrated a remarkable milestone by handing over 55 Individual Household Latrines (IHHLs) to families in Ghaziabad and Khed. A total of 40 IHHLs were handed over to the families in Khed, Maharashtra, on 15<sup>th</sup> December 2023, while 15 IHHLs were handed over to the families in Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh, on 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2023.

The sanitation units were handed over to the families in the presence of Ms. Neeta Linz, General Manager Brand Marketing, LG India; Mr. Abhishek Kumar, CSR Consultant, LG India; Habitat India staff; and the community in Khed and Ghaziabad. This partnership between Habitat India and LG, facilitates the construction of 34 new homes and 80 IHHLs, in Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh, and Khed, Maharashtra. This collaboration is a testimony to the combined vision of creating a world where everyone has a decent place to live.

Advocating for affordable housing with Andhra Pradesh State Housing Corporation

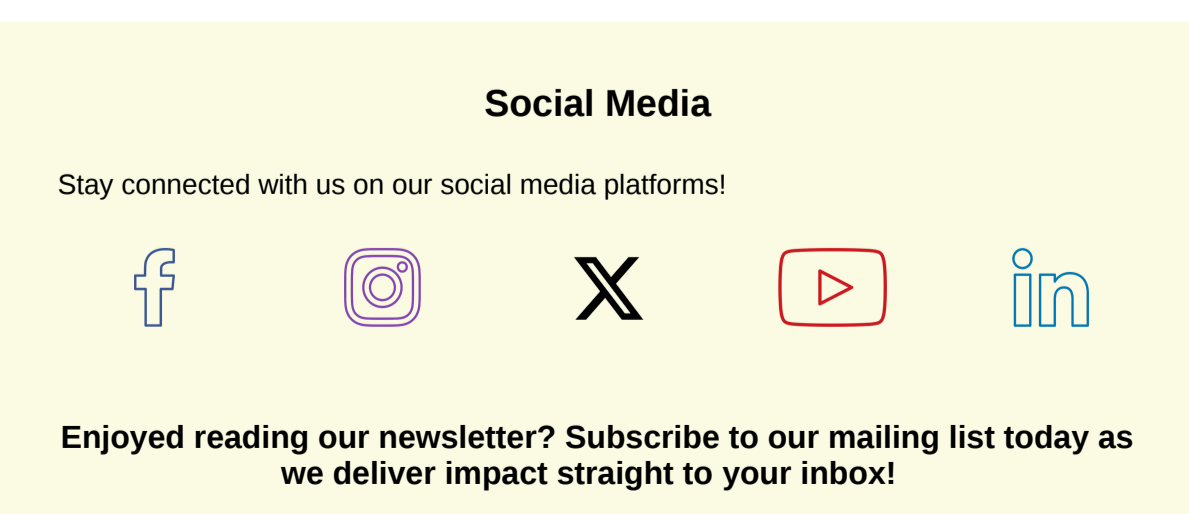


Habitat for Humanity India and Andhra Pradesh State Housing Corporation jointly organised a Round Table Discussion, supported by Village Reconstruction Organisation (VRO), on Multi-stakeholder Engagement on Affordable Housing on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2023, in Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh.

Distinguished speakers, including Mr. Ajay Jain, Special Chief Secretary, Government of Andhra Pradesh; Mr. Jayesh Shah, CEO, Svatantra Micro Housing Finance Corporation; Mr. D. Chakrapani, IAS Officer (Retired) and Chairman of Village Reconstruction Organisation (VRO); Mr. James Samuel, National Director (Interim), Habitat for Humanity India; and senior leaders from other housing financial institutions such as National Housing Bank, India Infoline Finance Limited (IIFL), Evangelical Social Action Forum (EASF) and Terwilliger Center for Innovation and Shelter (TCIS) of Habitat for Humanity, contributed their insights and expertise, adding depth and diversity to the discussions.

The round table enabled the participants to explore potential synergies between the government, housing finance companies, and other stakeholders to create a more comprehensive and effective approach to affordable housing. The discussions facilitated a deeper understanding to identify areas of collaboration for a more impactful approach. The event also showcased the success and lessons learned from Habitat for Humanity India's Housing Support Services (HSS) programme. This initiative highlighted Habitat India's unique partnership approach called P4 which stands for people-public-private-partnerships. The P4 approach is both scalable and sustainable.

Habitat Young Leaders Build 2024 launched in CP Goenka School, Oshiwara



On International Volunteers Day celebrated globally on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2023, Habitat for Humanity India launched the 13<sup>th</sup> edition of its Habitat Young Leaders Build campaign in CP Goenka International School in Oshiwara, Mumbai. Mr. Mohan D'souza, Director, Resource Development, Habitat for Humanity India, addressed the students about the importance of housing, and the need to raise awareness about decent shelter in India.

If you are willing to be a part of HYL 2024, write to Ms. Nikshmita Shetty, National Manager, International Baccalaureate School Partnerships, Habitat for Humanity India on [nikshmitas@hfhindia.org](mailto:nikshmitas@hfhindia.org).

MEDIA COVERAGE



Spl CS seeks help in housing

DC CORRESPONDENT VIJAYAWADA, DEC. 14 housing in AP which was chaired by the special CS. The government is spending ₹5,000 crore for infrastructure facilities like roads, water electricity and drainage for Jaganna colonies. The Jalajeevan mission scheme is providing drinking water connections and DISCOMS is establishing electricity connections, he said.

Financial institutions urged to support AP housing scheme for the poor

PM'S VOICE: Special Chief Secretary of the Housing Department Jay Jain has urged financial and lending institutions to extend their support to the state government's flagship mega housing programme, Navaratri Pustalanderikilla. A round table discussion was held on affordable housing for the poor with representatives from National Housing Bank, India Infoline Finance Limited (IIFL), Evangelical Social Action Forum (EASF) and Terwilliger Center for Innovation and Shelter (TCIS) of Habitat for Humanity India.

వేలల ఇళ్లకు ఆర్థిక సహకారమందించండి

గృహ నిర్మాణాలకు ఆర్థిక సహకారం అందించండి. ప్రభుత్వం 22 వేలల ఇళ్లను నిర్మించడానికి 5000 కోట్ల రూపాయలను వినియోగించనుంది. జలజీవన్ మిషన్ కింద 50 లక్షల ఇళ్లకు తాగు నీరు సరఫరా చేయడానికి ప్రభుత్వం ప్రయత్నిస్తుంది. విద్యుత్ సౌకర్యం మరియు ఇంటర్నెట్ సౌకర్యం కూడా అందించబడుతుంది.

గృహ నిర్మాణాలకు ఆర్థిక చేయూతనందించాలి

గృహ నిర్మాణాలకు ఆర్థిక సహకారం అందించండి. ప్రభుత్వం 22 వేలల ఇళ్లను నిర్మించడానికి 5000 కోట్ల రూపాయలను వినియోగించనుంది. జలజీవన్ మిషన్ కింద 50 లక్షల ఇళ్లకు తాగు నీరు సరఫరా చేయడానికి ప్రభుత్వం ప్రయత్నిస్తుంది. విద్యుత్ సౌకర్యం మరియు ఇంటర్నెట్ సౌకర్యం కూడా అందించబడుతుంది.

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