

THE HABITAT IMPACT GALA

AN EVENING OF CELEBRATION,
PURPOSE AND PARTNERSHIP.



We Build

A HABITAT FOR HUMANITY INDIA NEWSLETTER

Special Edition
December 2025



From the National Director's Desk



Dear Friends,

At Habitat for Humanity India, our work is anchored in one simple yet powerful truth: a home is the launchpad for a family's future. This belief guides every brick we lay, every partnership we build and every community we walk alongside.

Recently, during a visit to Khed in Maharashtra, I met a father whose family had just moved into their new Habitat home. As we stood under his sturdy new roof, I asked him a simple question: "What does having this home mean to you?" He looked at me and replied with just two words – "*Sab kuch*." Everything!

When I asked him to explain what "*sab kuch*" meant, his answer stayed with me. He told me that this home was not just four walls and a roof, it was protection for his children, stability for their education, security for storing food and shelter from extreme heat and heavy rains. Most importantly, it gave him the confidence to go to work each day knowing that his family was safe. In that moment, I realised once again that a home represents health, education, livelihood, security and dignity - everything a family needs to move forward. And this is exactly the mission at the heart of Habitat for Humanity India.

The Habitat Impact Gala 2025 was envisioned to celebrate our legacy, strengthen partnerships and mobilise collective action for the future of housing

in India. Designed to honour 42 years of Habitat for Humanity India's journey of building homes and 20 years of IndiaBUILDS Advisory Committee's transformative leadership, the Impact Gala brought together leaders, partners, donors, volunteers and changemakers who believe, as we do, that safe and dignified housing is the foundation of a stronger India. From strategic conversations to powerful stories, the day reflected what becomes possible when compassionate leadership meets committed action.

As you turn these pages and relive the moments from the Gala, I invite you to see beyond the event; to the lives being transformed every day through your support. Each home built is not just shelter; it is a future secured. Every contribution, every partnership and every brick laid carries the promise of "*Sab kuch*" for a family.

Together, let us continue this journey with renewed purpose. Together, let us ensure that every family in India has a foundation of stability and a safe place to call home.

With gratitude,
Anand Kumar Bolimera
National Director
Habitat for Humanity India

A Legacy Build in Karjat: Leaders Build with Families



On 6th November 2025, Habitat India organised a special Volunteer Build titled 'Legacy Build' in Morewadi village located in Karjat, Raigad district of Maharashtra.

This hands-on build brought together distinguished global and Indian leaders, including Mr. Harlan Stone, Executive Chairman, HMTX Industries; Mr. Israel Cooper, Director and Founder, Home Development Group; Ms. Elizabeth Satow, Area Vice President, Asia-Pacific, Habitat for Humanity International; Mr. Anand Kumar Bolimera, National Director, Habitat for Humanity India

and members of Habitat India's Board of Trustees – Mrs. Sheila Kripalani (Chair), Mrs. Rajni Basumatary (Trustee), Air Vice Marshal (Retd.) Samuel M. Nicodemus (Trustee) and Dr. Belinda Bennet (Trustee).

They worked alongside the local community and helped two tribal families build their homes. The commemorative Build reaffirmed Habitat's enduring belief that everyone deserves a decent place to live, reflecting its mission of building homes, communities and hope.



“Standing shoulder to shoulder with communities in India during the Impact Gala week, I was reminded that in shared meals, honest conversations and the work of our hands, there exists a quiet determination that refuses to accept inadequate housing as inevitable.” — Mr. Israel Cooper, Director and Founder, Home Development Group and Member, Asia Pacific Development Council, Habitat for Humanity International.



“I am so blessed and happy that I have come here today and I was able to be part of this. We started at 6:00 am in the morning. From mixing the cement to creating a human chain for passing the bricks for construction, it was fun and gave me a sense of fulfilment.” — Mrs. Rajni Basumatary, Member, Board of Trustees, Habitat for Humanity India.



“We hope that what we are doing here will be useful for the community and we look forward to more such interactions in the future as well.” — Air Vice Marshal (Retd.) Samuel M. Nicodemus, Member, Board of Trustees, Habitat for Humanity India.



“With Habitat’s Asia Pacific Development Council, we have come together today to build homes for two women in need of safe and decent housing. It is our privilege to build homes that can withstand harsh weather and help the families feel safe and secure. Through this Build, we are advancing our vision of creating a world where everyone has a decent place to live.” — Ms. Elizabeth Satow, Area Vice President, Asia-Pacific, Habitat for Humanity International.



“I am very excited about my new home because I will finally have a safe and comfortable place to live. I have been helping the masons with the construction but seeing so many people work with the same enthusiasm to help me build my home truly moved me. I feel happy and grateful to have met them.” — Ms. Hausa Ganpat, Future Homeowner, Karjat, Maharashtra.



“As Habitat for Humanity India marks 42 years of its mission, we remain deeply committed to ensuring that every family has access to a safe and decent home. This Build reflects our belief that housing is the foundation for dignity, health and opportunity. Our work complements the Government of India’s Housing for All vision and continues to promote sustainable, climate-resilient solutions that strengthen communities across the country.” — Mr. Anand Kumar Bolimera, National Director, Habitat for Humanity India.



Asia Pacific Development Council Meeting

Ahead of the Habitat Impact Gala, a meeting of the Asia Pacific Development Council (APDC) of Habitat for Humanity was convened on 7th November 2025 at the Aditya Birla Centre, Mumbai. The APDC brings together distinguished business leaders and industrialists from across the region who share Habitat's vision of building a world where everyone has a decent place to live.

The meeting was attended by **Mr. Harlan Stone**, APDC Chair and President and CEO, HMTX Industries; **Mrs. Rajashree ji Birla**, Aditya Birla Group and Chair of Habitat India's IndiaBUILDS Advisory Committee; **Mr. Fernando Zóbel de Ayala**, Special Advisor, Ayala Corporation and **Mr. Israel Cooper**, Director and Founder, Home Development Group.

They were joined by senior leaders from the Aditya Birla Group: **Mr. Askaran Agarwala**, Group Advisor, Birla Group Trusts and Special Community Projects, **Mr. Samir Agarwal**, Senior Vice President and **Dr. Pragnya Ram**, CSR, Legacy Documentation and Archives.

Habitat for Humanity was represented by **Mr. Patrick Canagasingham**, Chief Operating Officer, **Ms. Elizabeth Satow**, Area Vice President, Asia Pacific Region; **Mr. Shoban Rainford**, Director - Resource Development, Asia Pacific Region; **Mr. Anand Kumar Bolimera**, National Director, Habitat for Humanity India and **Mr. Prasanna Sriraman**, Country Lead, Terwilliger Center for Innovation in Shelter (TCIS), India and other senior members of the team.

Speaking at the meeting, **Mr. Anand Kumar Bolimera** shared an overview of Habitat for Humanity India's growth trajectory and its increasing focus on climate-resilient housing. He also highlighted the Government of India's **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY)**, launched by the Honourable Prime Minister **Shri Narendra Modi**, as a significant opportunity for collaboration to expand the reach and impact of safe and affordable housing solutions in India. Discussions on **Project Saur Oorja** (solar energy) under Habitat's **Build Beyond** platform further showcased the potential of multi-year, outcome-driven corporate partnerships.

A presentation by **Mr. Prasanna Sriraman** highlighted emerging innovations in the shelter sector, including **3D-printed housing technologies** and the role of housing microfinance in accelerating growth for **Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)** linked to the housing ecosystem.

The meeting reaffirmed a shared commitment to collaboration, innovation and long-term impact, with a collective focus on building better, **building more and expanding access to affordable housing** across India and the wider Asia-Pacific region.



Advancing Habitat for Humanity's Mission in India



Habitat for Humanity India hosted a leadership meeting bringing together members of the Asia Pacific Development Council, the IndiaBUILDS Advisory Committee, the Board of Trustees and senior leadership. The session convened business leaders, philanthropists and long-standing supporters who reflected on their passion for Habitat's mission and deliberated on how philanthropy, collective networks and multi-sector collaboration can accelerate the inclusive, sustainable and affordable housing in India.



Habitat Impact Gala 2025: Inspiring Collective Action for Housing for All



Habitat for Humanity India organised the **Habitat Impact Gala 2025** on 7th November 2025 in Mumbai with a vision to **inspire collective action towards housing for people living in poor, marginalised and vulnerable conditions**, while commemorating three defining milestones in Habitat India's journey — **42 years of impact in India, 20 years of transformational leadership of the IndiaBUILDS Advisory Committee (IBAC) and 19 years of the landmark Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter Work Project in Lonavala (2006).**

Bringing together business leaders, global stakeholders, partners and long-standing supporters, the Gala reaffirmed the central belief that **safe and dignified housing is the foundation of opportunity, resilience and inclusion**. Rooted in Habitat's legacy and focused firmly on the future, the evening celebrated partnership, volunteerism and shared purpose — honouring the journey so far while galvanising support to serve more families in need of adequate housing in the years ahead.

The evening opened on a soulful note with a classical vocal recital by **Mrs. Rochana Dahanukar and her team**, setting the tone for a night rooted in purpose and reflection. This was followed by a warm welcome from **Mrs. Sheila Kripalani**, Chairperson, Board of Trustees, Habitat for Humanity India and a powerful address by **Mr. Anand Kumar Bolimera**, National Director, Habitat for Humanity India, who reminded the audience that a home is not merely a structure, but the foundation of dignity, security and opportunity.

An impact film tracing Habitat's journey in India over the past four decades was unveiled, capturing not only the stories of homeowners but also the voices of partners, volunteers and supporters who have walked alongside Habitat in building hope.

In the pages that follow, we share **glimpses from the Habitat Impact Gala 2025**—moments of reflection, celebration and renewed commitment to building a future where everyone has a decent place to live.



















Housing for All: Turning Vision into Lasting Impact



A key highlight of the evening was the compelling panel discussion on “Housing for All: Turning Vision into Lasting Impact,” featuring Dr. Niranjan Hiranandani, Managing Director – Hiranandani Group of Companies, Chairman – NAREDCO National and Member – IndiaBUILDS Advisory Committee, Habitat for Humanity India; Mr. Patrick Canagasingham – Chief Operating Officer, Habitat for Humanity International

and Mr. Jayesh Shah, Wholetime Director, Swatantra MicroHousing Finance Corporation. Moderated by Mr. Dhaval Monani - Professor at Anant National University and Founder of First Home Realty Solutions, the conversation offered diverse perspectives on affordable housing, policy, private sector collaboration and sustainable development, reinforcing the urgent need for collective action.



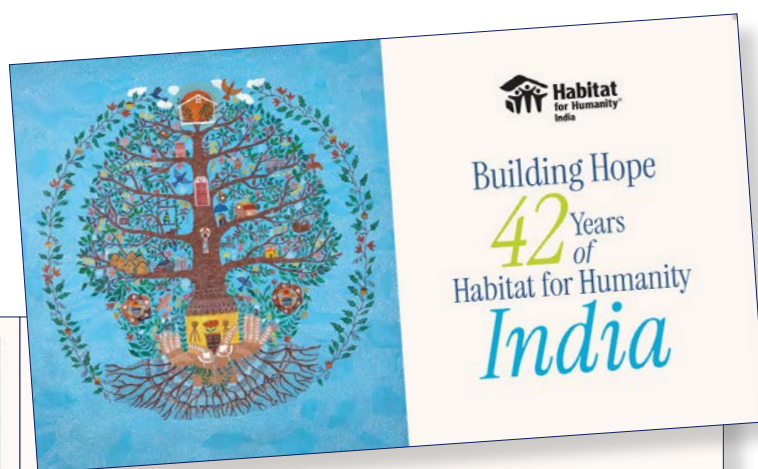
Launch of Habitat for Humanity's Commemorative Coffee Table Book



The celebrations gathered further momentum with the unveiling of a commemorative Coffee Table Book **'Building Hope: 42 Years of Habitat for Humanity India'** released by Mrs. Rajashree ji Birla, Aditya Birla Group; Chairperson – Habitat IndiaBUILDS Advisory Committee; Dr. Niranjan Hiranandani, Managing Director – Hiranandani Group of Companies, Member – Habitat IndiaBUILDS Advisory Committee; Mr. Gul Kripalani, Chairman and Managing Director, Pijikay Group of Companies, Member – Habitat IndiaBUILDS Advisory Committee; Mrs. Sneh Koticha Contractor, Director, Jean Claude Biguine Salon and Spa; Mr. Harlan Stone, President and CEO - HMTX Industries, USA and Hong Kong, Mr. Patrick Canagasingham, Chief Operating Officer, Habitat for

Humanity International and Mr. Anand K. Bolimera, National Director, Habitat for Humanity India. The book captures over four decades of transformative stories, partnerships and impact across the country.

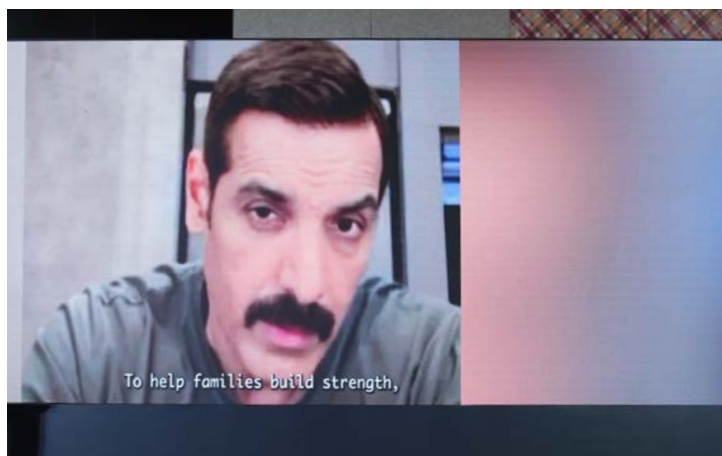
If you wish to receive a copy of the book, write to us on info@habitatindia.org.



Stories of *Transformation*



Launch of the Brick-Aid Campaign



Another defining moment of the evening was the official launch of the Brick-Aid Campaign by Mrs. Rajashree ji Birla and Ms. Jacqueline Fernandez, inviting guests to symbolically 'donate a brick' towards building homes for families in need. The campaign was launched through a video message by Mr. John Abraham urging the audience to support Habitat for Humanity's vision. The campaign sparked an immediate wave of giving and solidarity across the room.

Brick-Aid

WHAT IS BRICK-AID?

A single brick holds the promise of a safe home. Brick by brick, walls rise, homes take shape and communities grow. When communities thrive, India grows stronger. **Brick-Aid turns this simple truth into a nationwide chain of generosity.**

The Brick-Aid Campaign is a digital, peer-to-peer giving movement where **every donor inspires the next.**

Donate → Tag and nominate your friends → Encourage them to donate and keep the chain alive.

Who Can Join?

Individuals, corporate professionals, students, schools, the Indian diaspora anyone who believes that housing is a universal fundamental right, can join this campaign to **support Habitat.**

WHY IT MATTERS?

By joining Brick-Aid, you help power our work and accelerate our mission, allowing us to respond faster, innovate better and reach more families.

How Can You Join?

A. Donate and Inspire

Visit www.habitatindia.org/brickaid and donate now.

Share your support on social media. Nominate **three friends or colleagues** to donate and carry the chain forward.

B. Become a Brick-Aid Champion

Lead your own crowdfunding campaign and encourage your colleagues, friends, family members to start their own Brick-Aid chains.

C. AMPLIFY WITH CORPORATE MATCHING GRANT

Organisations can match funds raised by employees **doubling the impact!**

Scan the QR Code or visit our website www.habitatindia.org/brickaid to donate now!



Honouring Habitat Champions

A special moment of the evening was dedicated to the felicitation of key donors and supporters, recognising their unwavering commitment and long-standing support of Habitat for Humanity India's mission. Their generosity, belief and partnership over the years have played a vital role in transforming countless lives through safe and dignified housing. A plaque of appreciation was handed over to the donors to as a token of appreciation. The felicitation served as a tribute to the power of sustained collaboration and the shared responsibility of building a better, more inclusive future.



Mrs. Rajashree ji Birla, Aditya Birla Group was honoured with a plaque of appreciation.



A plaque of appreciation was presented to **Ms. Taila Anandasagar**, Programme Manager, Corporate Citizenship and CSR and **Mr. Anand More**, Senior Vice President, Citi.



Northern Trust's support was recognised with a plaque presented to **Mr. Joe James Christy**, Senior Vice President, Global Lead, Client Asset Transitions and Account Lifecycle, Global Client Onboarding Operations (GCO Ops), Market Operations, COO, Northern Trust.



Sekhmet Group's support was acknowledged with a plaque presented to **Mr. Santosh Kumar Mahil**, Managing Director and CEO and **Ms. Ritoli Patro**, Company Secretary and CSR Lead, Sekhmet Group.



The support of M. K. Tata Trust was recognised with a plaque presented to **Ms. Piloo Tata**, Trustee, M. K. Tata Trust.



Caldico Specialities India Pvt. Ltd. was acknowledged with a plaque presented to **Ms. Yogita Parab**, Head, CSR, Caldico Specialities India Pvt. Ltd.



Elevor Digital (Altius) was recognised with a plaque presented to **Ms. Renuka Gowda**, Head, CSR, Elevor Digital (Altius).



ReNew's support was acknowledged with a plaque presented to **Mr. Jitendra Routray**, Group Head, CSR, ReNew Group and **Mr. Sudeep Dubey**, Head, ReNew Foundation.



ROCA's support was recognised with a plaque presented to **Ms. Usha Rani**, Manager HR, Learning and Development, ROCA.

Art For Shelter



The evening concluded with an initiative called Art for Shelter wherein The Histare Group curated an art exhibition in support of Habitat's cause.



Testimonials

“As we mark 42 years of Habitat for Humanity India’s journey and 20 years of the IndiaBUILDS Advisory Committee, we are reminded that what began as a humble grassroots effort has grown into a powerful national movement—proving that a safe and stable home is the true foundation of dignity, health and opportunity. None of this would be possible without our partners, supporters and friends who stand with us, brick by brick and life by life.” — **Mrs. Sheila Kripalani, Chairperson, Board of Trustees, Habitat for Humanity India.**



“Supporting Habitat in India and across the globe has shown me the profound impact of a safe and secure home.” — **Ms. Jacqueline Fernandez, Actor.**

“My journey with Habitat began in 2004 when we launched John’s Brigade. Our dream was to inspire people to roll up their sleeves and build homes for families in need. Now I am excited to reimagine this partnership with the Brick-Aid Campaign. A call for all of us to build; one brick at a time, one home at a time, one life at a time.”

— **Mr. John Abraham, Actor.**



“It is deeply inspiring to see how Habitat for Humanity and IndiaBUILDS, under the visionary guidance of leaders like Mrs. Rajashree ji Birla, have shown the world that when compassion meets professionalism, communities thrive.” — **Mr. Nirav Mehta, Managing Director, Yatradham.**

With Gratitude



We are deeply grateful to Mr. John Abraham

for his powerful video message and unwavering support for the Brick-Aid campaign. His commitment continues to amplify our voice and inspire a nation-wide movement.



Our heartfelt thanks to Ms. Jacqueline Fernandez

for gracing the Habitat Impact Gala 2025. Her passionate and moving words during the event inspired us all in our mission to build homes and hope across India.



A special thank you to Mr. Aman Uppal

for exceptionally hosting the Habitat Impact Gala 2025. His warmth and talent brought our stories to life and played a pivotal role in the evening's resounding success.

We extend our sincere gratitude to our esteemed supporters — **Aditya Birla Group, Jean Claude Biguine, Reliance Industries Limited, YatraDham, Sanjay and Falguni Nayar, Monarch Network Capital Ltd., The Histare Group, Fab Cars Pvt. Ltd. and Ecosac**, as well as to all our guests and partners whose presence, commitment and belief in Habitat's mission made the evening truly meaningful.

The Habitat Impact Gala 2025 marked a powerful culmination of shared leadership and strategic intent. It reaffirmed that lasting change in housing is built through partnership, sustained commitment and the collective will to act.



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Industries Limited
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YatraDham.Org
Spiritual Stay, Puja, Packages, Wellness

**SANJAY AND
FALGUN
NAYAR**


HISTARE


FABCARS

ECOSAC
refuse, if you cannot reuse



Join Our **Brick-Aid Campaign** And Contribute To Our Vision Of Building A World Where Everyone Has A Decent Place To Live.



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