

We Build

A Habitat For
Humanity India
Newsletter
January - March 2026



Before: Where every day
was a struggle for space
and safety.



During: Building
a new beginning.



After: Where hope has found a
home for Viju and Nitesh.

FROM THE NATIONAL DIRECTOR'S DESK



Dear Friends,

At Habitat for Humanity India, we are guided by a simple yet powerful belief: a safe home is the foundation on which families build healthier, more secure and more hopeful futures. It is this belief that shapes every partnership we forge and every community we work alongside.

For instance, read Pooja's story. For years, Pooja and her family lived in a single rented room without access to basic sanitation or privacy. Today, as she lives in a home of her own, it offers dignity, stability and the promise of a better future for her children.

This quarter, we saw meaningful progress on the ground. In Haryana, families moved into their new homes marking the beginning of a more stable future in a housing project supported by Max Estates. In Tamil Nadu, our collaboration with The UPS Foundation helped families from the Irula tribal community build homes and improve their living conditions. In Maharashtra, a project supported by Samsung C&T saw families from the Warli tribal community move into newly built homes - a reminder that a home shapes not just shelter, but the possibilities that follow.

At the heart of this progress is also the spirit of volunteering. Across our project locations, corporate professionals from India, Korea

and Japan came together to work alongside communities with a shared purpose and solidarity.

We also continued to contribute to the national dialogue on affordable housing, engaging with stakeholders through platforms such as the National CSR Summit and a dialogue on Affordable Housing and CSR Policy.

These conversations are vital in strengthening partnerships and advancing solutions that can enable more families to access safe and dignified housing and ultimately contribute to the Government of India's vision of Housing for All.

As we look ahead, the scale of the need calls for collective action. The progress we see today reaffirms what is possible when communities, donors, partners and volunteers come together with a shared purpose. With your continued support, we remain committed to building homes, strengthening communities and enabling futures filled with hope.

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

VOICES FROM THE FIELD

A new dawn for Pooja Rewari, Haryana



Pooja and her son in front of their new home.

Pooja, a 28-year-old widow and mother of two, lived in a single, cramped room in Aakera village, Haryana. With no access to a toilet or clean water, daily life was a constant struggle marked by fear, shame and exhaustion.

Each morning, before the village woke up, Pooja would step out in the dark to relieve herself in the open fields. “I always feared being seen. The risk of harassment was real and it made me anxious every single day,” she recalls softly. With no private space at home, she would bathe in a narrow alley between houses before sunrise, racing against time and fear of judgement.

Inside their tiny, rented room, life was difficult. Her two sons, Arun (13) and Tarun (15), slept on the only bed while Pooja rested on the cold floor. “My back used to ache all the time,” she says. “And without a proper door, I constantly worried about our safety.” During heavy rains, water seeped through the roof and walls, forcing them to sleep under a tarpaulin. “The dampness made us all fall sick,” she adds.



Pooja in her old house.

Pooja is a street vendor and sells cosmetics from a small cart in the local market. The contrast is stark. “I sell beauty products all day, but I can’t afford to use them. People here frown upon widows trying to look nice.” She earns just enough to scrape by, with ₹2,500 going towards rent and ₹6,000 was set aside for her sons’ education — a sacrifice she makes willingly. “I want them to have a better future. That’s all I hope for.”

Hope came in the form of Habitat for Humanity India. When she heard about the opportunity to build a new home, she filled the form with trembling



Pooja celebrating first Diwali in her new home.

“For the first time, I have a place that feels safe. A proper toilet, a sturdy roof and space for my children to study. No longer burdened by rent, I have opened a savings account for the future and feel secure, like I can finally start planning ahead,” says Pooja.

hands, uncertain of what the future would hold. “When I got the call saying I was selected, it felt like a miracle,” she says, her eyes welling up.

On 19th November 2024, twenty-five families in Aakera village including Pooja’s moved one step closer to stability and dignity as they were handed over the keys to their new homes. Pooja was among the selected homeowners.

The impact was immediate. “For the first time, I have a place that feels safe. A proper toilet, a sturdy roof and space for my children to study,” she shares. No longer burdened by rent, she has opened a savings account for the future. “I feel secure, like I can finally start planning ahead.” Her new home is simple, yet full of life. Curtains

hang on the windows; flowerpots brighten the entrance and fairy lights dance on the walls. “I even bought myself a few new clothes,” she laughs. “I watch my favourite shows — *Kumkum Bhagya* and *Kundali Bhagya* — in peace, without anyone watching or judging me.”

The space has brought freedom. Freedom to rest, to work, to dream. “I no longer have to rush through everything before dawn. I can finally breathe. I am truly grateful. This home has given me the strength to look forward to tomorrow,” she says.

For Pooja, this home is a new foundation. A safe place to raise her children. A symbol of dignity restored.

The Partnership Behind the Change

Pooja’s journey is part of a larger effort in Rewari district, Haryana, where Habitat for Humanity India, in partnership with Max Estates Limited, has supported 54 families in building more stable and secure futures. Across Aakera and Bhudla villages, families have moved into newly constructed homes designed to improve everyday living — with better ventilation, access to sanitation and spaces that support health, safety and children’s education.

This initiative reflects how purpose-driven partnerships can create lasting, community-level impact — enabling families not just to build homes, but to move forward with confidence and dignity.

**Scan the QR Code
to learn more:**





Delivering Impact Together: Habitat India and The UPS Foundation



Saravanan and Valliammal with their daughters in front of their new home.

In Tamil Nadu's Kancheepuram district, five families from the Irula tribal community are stepping into a new phase of life — one defined by stability, dignity and opportunity.

This transformation has been made possible through the partnership between Habitat for Humanity India and The UPS Foundation, culminating in the handover of five newly built homes on 24th March 2026. The initiative reflects how focused, purpose-driven collaboration can create meaningful and lasting change, even at the grassroots level.

A defining feature of this partnership has been the active engagement of UPS employees. Over the course of five Volunteer Builds, more than 200 employees have come together to contribute their time and effort, working alongside homeowners and the Habitat India team. From laying the foundation to completing the final touch of paint, their involvement brought not only momentum to the construction process, but also a strong sense of shared purpose.

Each home has been thoughtfully designed to include a living room, bedroom, kitchen and a sanitation unit — supporting healthier living conditions and everyday dignity. For the families, these homes represent far more than physical structures; they offer security, stability and the confidence to invest in their futures.



Volunteers from UPS working alongside homeowners

Through its unwavering support and employee engagement, The UPS Foundation has played a vital role in enabling this transformation. This initiative stands as a powerful example of how strategic partnerships can help expand access to adequate housing, while strengthening communities for the long term.

“We were at rock bottom, feeling forgotten, but they lifted us to a better life. Today, I cannot express my happiness in words. From the bottom of my heart, I thank Habitat for Humanity India and the UPS Foundation,”
- Valliammal, Homeowner, Tamil Nadu



Strengthening Communities in Palghar: A Partnership with Samsung C&T



Yogita and Yogesh with their children in front of their new home.

Samsung C&T employees contributing to the home construction.



New school sanitation unit at Z. P. School, Palghar.



Surekha in front of her new home.

In Saware village in Maharashtra’s Palghar district, families from the Warli tribal community are stepping into their new homes and with it a secure and hopeful future.

Through a partnership between Habitat for Humanity India and Samsung C&T, 15 families have built homes, while improved sanitation facilities have been constructed in three local schools. Marked by a handover held on 20th March 2026, this initiative reflects a shared commitment to improving living conditions and overall community well-being.

A key strength of this partnership has been the active involvement of employees of Samsung as volunteers. 98 employees from Samsung C&T Korea and India came together to volunteer alongside homeowners. From construction support to community interaction, their participation brought both momentum and meaning to the initiative.

Beyond housing, the project also focuses on long-term impact. Sanitation infrastructure in schools, along with WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene) awareness sessions for children and families, is helping promote healthier practices and improved quality of life across the community.

For homeowners like Shevanti, the change is deeply personal. “I never thought that at this age I would live in a strong and secure home. Our old house brought us worry and hardship every day. But today, I feel relief and happiness. My family is safe and I can finally live without fear. This home is a blessing for us.”

Scan the QR code to learn more about this partnership:



STRENGTHENING HOUSING SOLUTIONS THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS AND DIALOGUE

As a trusted partner in advancing inclusive housing, Habitat for Humanity India brings together government, corporates and civil society to support scalable solutions that contribute to the Government of India's vision of Housing for All.

Supporting Land Security for Low-Income Families in Tamil Nadu

On 11th February 2026 in Chennai, Habitat for Humanity India convened leading civil society organisations along with representatives from the Tribal Welfare Department, Government of Tamil Nadu, for a state-level consultation on land security and land titles.

The dialogue brought together participants from Chennai, Tiruvallur, Chengalpattu, Kancheepuram, Vellore and Trichy to share insights, strengthen coordination and explore actionable pathways to support families in accessing secure land tenure.

Access to land titles plays a critical role in enabling families to build safe, permanent and dignified homes. Strengthening land security is particularly important for low-income families,

including Scheduled Tribes (STs) and Scheduled Castes (SCs), as it lays the foundation for long-term stability and development.

The consultation was strengthened by the participation and encouragement of S. Annadurai, Director, Tribal Welfare Department, Government of Tamil Nadu, who emphasised the importance of coordinated and integrated efforts to support holistic development among tribal communities.

This convening marks an important step towards strengthening multi-stakeholder collaboration at the district level, with a shared goal of enabling at least 1000 families to move towards secure land ownership over the next two years.



Enabling Affordable Housing Through CSR Partnerships and Dialogue



Habitat for Humanity India convened sector leaders, practitioners and experts at the Affordable Housing and CSR Policy Dialogue on 19th February 2026 to explore how Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) can further strengthen access to decent shelter.

Hosted at the India Habitat Centre, the dialogue focused on advancing housing solutions through stronger collaboration, knowledge sharing and alignment of resources across sectors.

The convening brought together civil society organisations, research institutions, CSR leaders and sector experts, fostering discussions on how partnerships can support and complement national housing priorities.

KEY AREAS OF FOCUS INCLUDED:

- Strengthening convergence between CSR investments and government housing initiatives, particularly Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Prime Minister's Housing Scheme), in support of the Government of India's Housing for All vision.
- Reinforcing housing as a key driver of health, education and economic well-being.
- Encouraging multi-stakeholder collaboration for greater and sustained impact.

“Families from Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) supported through homeowner-led construction show stronger ownership and stability.”

— Mr. Jayesh Shah, Independent Director, Svatantra Microfinance

“CSR could unlock barriers in EWS housing segment by focusing on non-financing aspects of the housing life cycle. We need to study and amplify successful models of multi-partnership approaches in EWS housing.”

— Ms. Parul Agarwal, Independent Consultant

“It is time to consider exploring and prioritising aspirational districts for development interventions through CSR funding.”

— Mr. Sagat Shaunik, Associate Director, Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu India LLP

“It is crucial to work with acting bodies who are engaged in the housing value chain for the EWS and strengthen their capacities. Access to finance for them is critical as well.”

— Mr. Sachin Kumar, Director, Samavit Vikas Pvt. Ltd.

Advancing Housing Conversations at the National CSR Summit 2026

Habitat for Humanity India was the collaborative partner for the National CSR Summit 2026 held at the Indian International Centre, Delhi on 16th March 2026. Organised by AROH Foundation, the summit brought together key stakeholders from government, corporates and the development sector to strengthen India's CSR ecosystem and accelerate last-mile impact.

The inaugural session featured an esteemed lineup of leaders, including Honourable Chief Guest, Mr. Lumba Ram Chaudhary, Member of Lok Sabha; Ms. Shallu Jindal, Chairperson, Jindal Foundation; Dr. Bhaskar Chatterjee, IAS (Retd.) and former Secretary to the Government of India; and Mr. Arjan de Wagt, Deputy Representative, UNICEF India. Their perspectives highlighted the importance of partnerships, policy alignment and community-centric approaches in advancing inclusive and sustainable development.

Representing Habitat India, Mr. Anand K. Bolimera, National Director, Habitat for Humanity India, participated as a panellist, emphasising the importance of safe and adequate housing in strengthening dignity, resilience and long-term socio-economic progress. He highlighted how Habitat India's work complements national efforts such as the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY), contributing to the Government of India's vision of Housing for All by reaching underserved families.

Through its participation, Habitat for Humanity India reaffirmed its commitment to working alongside government bodies, corporates and civil society to build resilient communities through decent shelter. The summit reflected a shared vision of leveraging partnerships, innovation and collective action to ensure that families have access to affordable, adequate and secure housing as part of India's growth journey.



VOLUNTEER BUILDS: ENABLING PURPOSE-DRIVEN PARTNERSHIPS



Habitat for Humanity India offers structured volunteer engagement platforms that bring together corporates, global institutions and academic partners to contribute meaningfully to building homes and strengthening communities.

From January to March 2026, corporate professionals and student volunteers from India, Korea and Japan came together across project locations, working alongside communities and Habitat teams. These engagements go beyond construction — creating opportunities for collaboration, cross-cultural exchange and shared learning, while contributing to long-term community impact.

Japan–India Legacy Build 4.0: A Global Platform for Collaboration

The fourth edition of the Japan–India Legacy Build in Kancheepuram, Tamil Nadu, stood out as a strong example of international collaboration and leadership in action.

Led by Mr. Anthony Miller, long-time Habitat volunteer and member of the Asia Pacific Development Council, Habitat for Humanity International, along with Ms. Cecilia Melin, Executive Director of Habitat for Humanity Japan, the build brought together volunteers, partners

and community members in a shared effort to support the construction of homes for three families.

Over five days, volunteers from Japan and India worked alongside homeowners and Habitat India teams, contributing their time and skills while engaging in meaningful cultural exchange. The Legacy Build continues to serve as a platform for deepening partnerships and strengthening global engagement in the housing sector.



Mr. Anthony Miller and Ms. Cecilia Melin at Japan-India Legacy Build at Kancheepuram



Volunteers from Japan and India worked with homeowners

“We would like to thank the Habitat India team for the fantastic preparations that has gone into the build. Thanks to the volunteers that have joined us on this build. Together we hope to have more such builds in the future as well.” — Mrs. Cecilia Melin, Executive Director, Habitat for Humanity Japan

“Carrying cement mix feels very different from carrying laptops on our backs and it reminds us of the value of this work.” — Ms. Momoko Matsumara, Volunteer and Team Leader, Japan

“Legacy Build 3.0 led by Mr. Anthony Miller and Ms. Cecilia Melin, held at Hakki-Pikki Colony in Anekal, Bengaluru, Karnataka was my first ever Volunteer Build. We built homes for three families during that build and it was an amazing and fulfilling experience. And this year, I am very excited to come back and take part in the Legacy Build 4.0, here in Kancheepuram, Tamil Nadu.” — Mr. Anand Kumar Bolimera, National Director, Habitat for Humanity India

“We take this opportunity to thank the team of volunteers that have arrived here for Legacy Build 4.0. The kind of commitment that you have shown here today while building the homes is beautiful. Thanks to Anthony Miller and Cecilia Melin for leading this build and let us have a memorable one.” — Mr. Rajiv K Raman, Senior Director, Programmes, Habitat for Humanity India

Corporate Engagement in Action: Volunteer Build with Korean Re

In Dahe village, Palghar, a team of 12 employees from Korean Re partnered with Habitat India to support the construction of a home for Mr. Devaram and Mrs. Darshana and their family.

Working alongside the community, the volunteers contributed directly to the building process while gaining a deeper understanding of how safe housing influences health, dignity and long-term well-being. Such engagements reflect how corporate volunteering can create both social impact and meaningful employee experiences.

“Having a safe and permanent home once felt like a distant dream. Thanks to Habitat for Humanity and the Korean Re team, my family will now have a place where we can live safely and with peace of mind.”

— Mrs. Darshana, future homeowner,
Dahe village, Palghar



Employees from Korean Re supported the construction of a home



Global Village Build: Engaging the Next Generation



Volunteers from Waseda University, Japan contributing to the home construction

In Anekal, Bengaluru, 12 students from Waseda University, Japan, volunteered to help build a home for Shilpa and her family. Shilpa's home is being built through the generous support of Mr. John Wilcox and Mrs. Kavita Singh.

This engagement highlights the role of academic institutions in fostering global citizenship and social responsibility. By working alongside communities, students gain first-hand exposure to development challenges while contributing to meaningful change.

BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS THROUGH VOLUNTEERISM



Across these builds, Habitat India continues to strengthen its role as a platform for purpose-driven engagement — enabling corporates, global institutions and young leaders to contribute to the shared vision of ensuring that every family has a place to call home.

BRICK-AID: TURNING COLLECTIVE ACTION INTO HOMES

Brick-Aid is Habitat for Humanity India's digital, peer-to-peer giving campaign that enables individuals to contribute directly towards Habitat's mission of building homes, communities and hope.

At its heart is a simple idea — a brick. The most fundamental unit of a home and a powerful symbol of collective action. By contributing a 'brick', individuals become part of a larger movement to build homes, communities and hope for families in need.

As the campaign continues to grow across digital platforms, it is bringing together individuals, communities and institutions with a shared purpose — ensuring that every family has a place to call home.

Support Brick-Aid and help build a home today:



Amplifying the Movement

Mr. Akshay Kumar, one of India's most respected public voices, a National Award-winning actor (2017, 2019) and a Padma Shri awardee (2009), lent his support to the Brick-Aid campaign on the occasion of India's Republic Day on 26th January.

Through his message, he encouraged citizens to come together to support families living in vulnerable conditions and contribute towards safe and adequate housing.

His support significantly amplified the campaign's reach, inspiring wider engagement and strengthening the collective voice around the need for dignified shelter.

Watch the campaign video:





Young Changemakers Step Forward

The spirit of Brick-Aid is also being carried forward by young changemakers.

On 23rd January 2026, over 200 students from C. P. Goenka International School, Oshiwara, participated in a “Walk for Homes” walkathon in solidarity with the cause of housing.

Inspired by the campaign, the students demonstrated how awareness can translate into action — proving that the commitment to build a better future can begin early.

We extend our sincere appreciation to the school leadership, teachers, parents and students for their support and participation.

Learn more
about the
Walkathon:

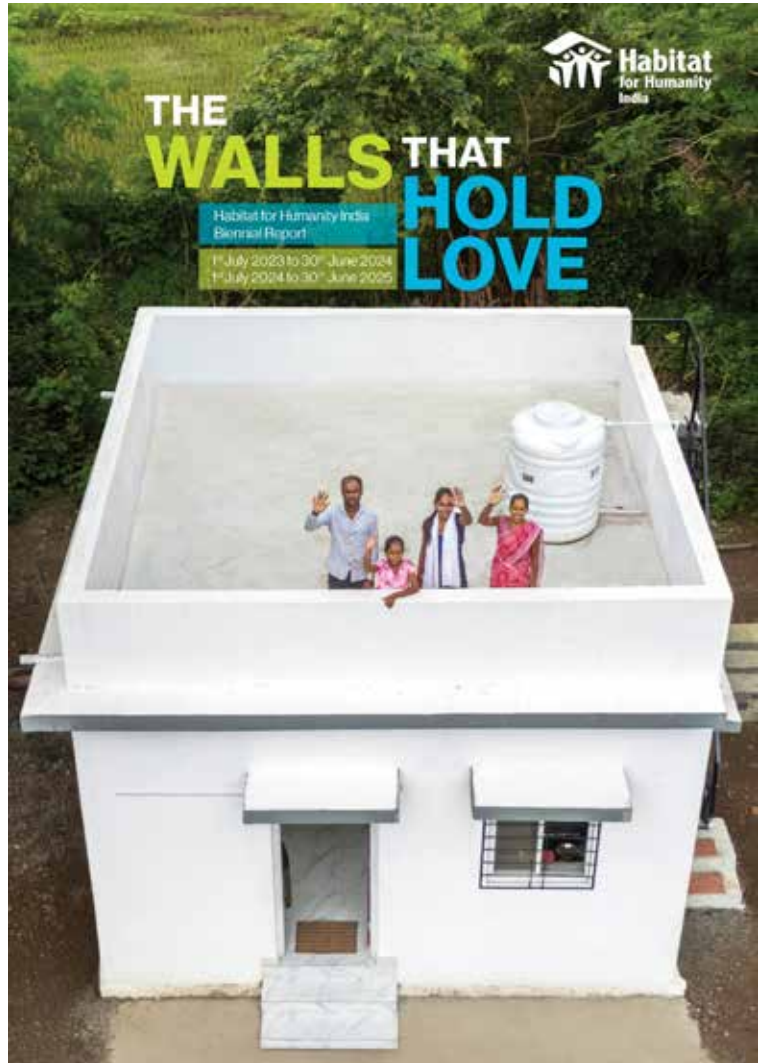


SEE THE IMPACT IN ACTION

From detailed reports to powerful stories and media coverage, explore how lives are being transformed through safe and dignified housing

Biennial Report: A closer look at our impact, scale and learnings.

**Scan the QR
code to read
the report:**



Impact Stories: Watch how homes are transforming lives across communities.



**Scan the QR
code to watch
the video on our
housing project
- Let's Build a
House:**



In the Media: See how our work is being recognised and amplified.



10-Feb-2026

Max Estates, Habitat for Humanity India Deliver 54 Safe Homes in Haryana



Haryana, February 10, 2026: Max Estates Limited, in partnership with Habitat for Humanity India, has completed the second phase of its affordable housing initiative in Haryana's Rewari district, providing safe and permanent homes to 54 families across two villages.



10-Feb-2026

54 Families Get Safer Homes Through Max Estates and Habitat for Humanity India 2026



10-Feb-2026

54 FAMILIES GET SAFER HOMES THROUGH MAX ESTATES AND HABITAT FOR HUMANITY INDIA



17-Mar-2026

National CSR Summit 2026 Focuses on Collaboration for Last-Mile Impact



17-Mar-2026

CSR Leaders Unite in New Delhi to Drive Last-Mile Development



Scan the QR to view media coverage





Beginning a new chapter under their own roof.
Viju and Nitesh now have a place to call their own
in Palghar, Maharashtra.

**THROUGH SHELTER,
WE EMPOWER.**



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