



impACT

January - March 2024

Dear co-founders of social change,

Our quarterly newsletters are a viewport into the latest updates from the community - highlights from ACT, stories of our social entrepreneurs and sector insights.

This newsletter is by and for the ACT Collective. We hope that you enjoy reading!

WHAT'S NEW



Indra Water and Farmers For Forests raise additional capital

[Indra Water raised \\$4 million](#) as additional Series A capital to propel their mission to treat 7 billion litres of wastewater over the next 6 years. Their electrically-driven modular technology efficiently treats wastewater in a decentralised and cost-effective manner.

[Farmers For Forests bagged the Henry Arnhold Fellowship](#) that supports innovators pioneering promising climate solutions with grant capital and ecosystem support. Their payment for ecosystem services model financially compensates farmers for providing environmental services and leverages the carbon credit market for sustainability.

ACT welcomes Frontier Markets with a Skilling x Gender grant

[Frontier Markets run an assisted e-commerce platform](#) which trains and equips a rural all-women salesforce of 'Sahelis' to market and sell products / services to rural consumers through the 'Meri Saheli' app.

Through partnerships with local NGOs and government entities, FM recruits women from Self Help Groups (SHGs) and equips them with their e-commerce platform as well as comprehensive training to market, sell and service necessary products and services. These women not only address real needs within their communities but also become catalysts for local economic growth.

Grassroots Energy, Minimines and Solinas join the collective

ACT For Environment welcomed [Grassroots Energy](#), that converts organic waste into Green Hydrogen using proprietary microbial cultures, as well as [Minimines](#), that uses an energy and water efficient hybrid hydro-metallurgy process to extract rare metals from Li-ion battery waste.

We are also excited to bring [Solinas Integrity](#) onboard to support the development of the 'Rehabilitation Bot' - a robotic solution that can enable end-to-end inspection and cleaning of sewer pipelines to prevent water contamination at source.



ACT portfolio startups join prestigious accelerators

ACT For Education grantees Top Parent and Rocket Learning got [selected for the LiftEd ed-tech Accelerator Program](#), which aims to improve Foundational Literacy and Numeracy to impact the lives of 4 million low-income children in India across 5 years.

Farmers For Forests and Revy from the ACT For Environment portfolio [joined the Land Accelerator South Asia program](#) led by World Resource Institute India and AIC Sangam, where they will receive critical support to implement their innovative solutions aimed at addressing challenges in land restoration.

Additionally, [Grassroots Energy also became a part of Energy Leap by Xynteo](#), Asia's first end-to-end clean hydrogen technology accelerator focused on driving sustainable energy innovation.



ACT For Health collaborates with C-CAMP and GoK

ACT For Health recently partnered with Centre for Cellular and Molecular Platforms (C-CAMP) and the Department of Health and Family Welfare Services, Govt. of Karnataka to [deploy innovative digital and tele-ophthalmology](#).



ACT onboards Atom360, doubles down on Navya & BHS

ACT For Health welcomed [Atom360](#) to its portfolio, whose AI-led innovation analyses oral cavity images from a smartphone app to detect oral cancer - our grant will enable a large-scale screening and clinical validation of their solution in partnership with TIFAC.

The scale grant to [Basic HealthCare Services \(BHS\)](#) aims to deploy mobile cassette readers (CR) at their primary care clinics to improve their operational efficacy in diagnosing TB patients in rural Rajasthan.

The follow-on grant to [Navya Care](#) will enable them to pilot the Earthshot Engine in district hospitals and tertiary cancer care centres across Andhra Pradesh and Assam, thus offering patients personalised, evidence-based cancer treatment plans.



ACT portfolio founders gain visibility on govt. platforms

As a part of the 'President With The People' initiative, Dr. Geetha Manjunath (Founder, Niramai) and Dr. Vanita Prasad (Co-Founder, Revy) were recently selected to meet the President of India and share their incredible entrepreneurial journeys of driving innovation to create impact at scale.

March also witnessed many of our portfolio companies showcasing their cutting-edge solutions at Startup Mahakumbh in New Delhi, including Adagio VR, Niramai, Revy, Grassroots Energy and Agri To Power!



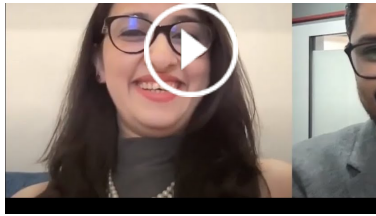
Intelehealth & Wysa heralded as future social unicorns

ACT For Health portfolio startups [Intelehealth and Wysa were recently heralded as India's potential future social unicorns](#) by the 100x Impact Accelerator Programme at The London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE)!



WEF features Karya & OHCN as innovative technologies

[Featured by WEF in this article](#), Karya's micro-tasking app enables underserved communities to complete simple AI/ML data tasks to aid their livelihoods, while Open Healthcare Network's telemedicine platform enables critical care



[Listen to our first episode on Spotify](#) where Alankrita Khera (Director, ACT) speaks to Suhas (Founder, APChem) about his mission to reduce India's fossil fuel demand by enabling plastic circularity.

"Our focus is to make the device available in as many states as possible. We are also looking at collaborations with governments and agencies to scale our efforts, and regulatory approvals for international expansion."

[Know more](#) about Periwinkle's innovative solution to tackle cervical cancer in this YourStory feature with co-founder Veena Moktali.



"Edtech in rural India will need to extend beyond the provision of online classes to creating opportunities for after-school tutoring and establishing a virtual classroom at home."

[Read this YourStory op-ed](#) by Tarun Saini (Founder, Vidyakul) on why India's K-12 edtech revolution must focus on Bharat's state-board students.



INDUSTRY INSIGHTS



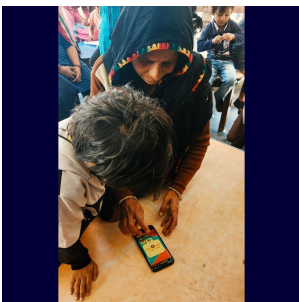
"Venture capital is often thought of in terms of valuations and profits, while social impact funding is associated with CSR, international foundations, and individual philanthropy. At ACT, our venture philanthropy model aims to bring the best of both worlds together by leveraging the rapid impact that tech and innovation can have, but for the social sector."

[Read this Forbes feature](#) on ACT's journey from being a COVID response collective to evolving into a venture philanthropy platform.



"Universal Health Coverage is a key enabler but has eluded us in India. In developed states, the rapidly growing burden of diseases such as diabetes is overwhelming while in others, the older challenges of infectious disease have still not been overcome."

[Read this insightful article](#) by Nachiket Mor (Investment Committee Member, ACT For Health), on the growth and development imperative in context to India's population.



"It's evident that adaptive and AI-enabled ed-tech platforms have an opportunity to become highly effective supplementary tools for education. But Bharat needs solutions that are low-cost, mobile-friendly, integrated with WhatsApp, have vernacular educational content and are highly personalised to aid learning for underserved children."

[Learn more in this Moneycontrol op-ed](#) by Aakanksha Gulati, Director at ACT, on how low-cost edtech solutions can accelerate learning outcomes for children from marginalised backgrounds.

Visit Website



Message sent by ACT Grants at No. 8/2(Old No. 2 and Old No. 7), Ulsoor Road, Bangalore, Karnataka , India.

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