

15th Social Entrepreneur of the Year Award India 2024



From L-R Ajay Khanna, Hilde Schwab, Hunny Bhagchandani, Shyam S Bhartia, Hardeep Puri, Madhura DasGupta Sinha, Akshay Saxena, Prof. Klaus Schwab, Shereen Bhan, Hari S Bhartia.

The Jubilant Bhartia Foundation and the Schwab Foundation for Social Entrepreneurship, the sister organization of the World Economic Forum, today honoured Mr Akshay Saxena of Avanti Fellows with the esteemed Social Entrepreneur of the Year Award - India 2024. The award was presented by Shri Hardeep Singh Puri, Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas in the presence of distinguished personalities from industry, government and civil society at a ceremony held at New Delhi.

Minister Puri said, “Social enterprises have been part of Indian fabric for a very long time. They typically cater to low income communities, typically agriculture, financial inclusion, health and education, clean energy.” He complemented government, social sector and corporates working together in partnership.

Minister Puri also highlighted that Social enterprises have played a

crucial role in upward mobility of millions of Indians over the years. He applauded their efforts and dedication.

Shereen Bhan, Managing Director, CNBC TV18 presented the stories of the three finalists and unfolded their inspiring and innovative journey.



Dignitaries on the dais

JURY MEMBERS



Ms Hilde Schwab

Co-Founder & Chairperson, Schwab Foundation for Social Entrepreneurship



Ms Shobhana Bhartia

Chairperson & Editorial Director, HT Media Ltd



Ms. Aashti Bhartia

Non-Executive Director, Jubilant Foodworks Ltd



Ms. Geetanjali Kirloskar

Chairperson and Managing Director, Kirloskar Systems Limited



Ms. Rohini Nilekani

Chairperson, Arghyam Foundation



Mr. Harish Arnezath

Regional Director, Stanford Seed, India



Dr. Shuchin Bajaj

Founder Director, Ujala Cygnus
Winner SEOY 2023

WINNER

Akshay Saxena

Avanti Fellows

Headquartered in: New Delhi

Established in: 2010

Area of Activity: Education

Website: avantifellows.org

To ensure equitable access to STEM careers for economically disadvantaged students, Avanti Fellows began its mission in 2010, targeting 50 million students in grades 9-12 from government-run high schools across India. Avanti Fellows offers free, at-home learning programs providing access to online resources and career guidance to help students explore and pursue STEM careers. Their high-intensity tutoring programs, focus on the top 10% of academically exceptional students with strong potential for qualifying for STEM education and careers. Remarkably, many students have managed to elevate their families out of intergenerational poverty within a few years.

Over 10 million economically disadvantaged students graduate each year from India's government high schools. Yet, fewer than 1% of these graduates gain admission to top-tier STEM undergraduate programmes, systematically denying them a key opportunity to uplift their families from intergenerational poverty. Girls are particularly disadvantaged. By 2030, Avanti Fellows aims to establish nationwide, state-sponsored programmes that identify high-potential students to provide them with career guidance.

Avanti Fellows is unique in its ability to create high-scale at-home learning programmes in collaboration with state governments. Avanti Fellows runs 2 major programmes. NEEV programme targets 16 million students in grades 9 and 10 in government schools across India, focusing on at-home learning models to enhance Math and



Hardeep Singh Puri, Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Government of India, Prof. Klaus Schwab, Founder & Executive Chairman, World Economic Forum & Co-Founder, Schwab Foundation for Social Entrepreneurship presenting the Social Entrepreneur of the Year Award-India 2024 to Akshay Saxena, Avanti Fellows.

Science achievement. Their second programme is The Test Preparation Initiative. They work with states to develop free-access portals offering academic materials while collaborating with the education departments to align in-school teaching with college access pathways. Congratulating the winner and finalists and lauding the work of social entrepreneurs in India, Prof. Klaus Schwab, Founder & Executive Chairman of the World Economic Forum and Co-Founder of Schwab Foundation for Social Entrepreneurship said "The Schwab Foundation for Social Entrepreneurship is proud to have partnered with the Jubilant Bhartia Foundation in recognizing the outstanding contributions of Indian social entrepreneurs over the past 15 years".

FINALISTS

Madhura Dasgupta Sinha of Aspire For Her

Aspireforher.com

Headquarters: Mumbai, India.

Year Established : 2021

Area of Activity: Aspire For Her Management & Consultancy Pvt Ltd (AFH) is dedicated to transforming the lives of over 1 million women and contributing \$5 billion to India's GDP by increasing women's workforce participation to 10 million by 2030. Their mission is to foster a generation of financially independent women by encouraging their entry and retention in the workforce through the strength of community and networks. AFH employs an advocacy and networking strategy to harness the potential of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI).

Impact: Long-term collaborations with major tech companies such as Amazon Web Services (AWS), IBM, Salesforce, Meta, Adobe, and Google have allowed AFH to develop the TechForHer community, which now boasts



nearly 200,000 women. Navya Naveli Nanda's initiative has significantly expanded their network of women entrepreneurs to approximately 25,000. Additionally, partnerships with state, national, and international agencies, including AICTE, MeitY Startup Hub, the US Consulate, and the Australian Consulate, have expanded AFH's service offerings and extended their reach.

Hunny Bhagchandani of TorchIt

mytorchit.com

Headquarters: Ahmedabad, India.

Year Established : 2016

Area of Activity: TorchIt's vision is to build a world where individuals with disabilities can lead independent lives. To achieve this, TorchIt designs and manufactures innovative and affordable assistive solutions. They conduct educational and skill-building programmes and spearhead community outreach efforts. TorchIt also operates EnableMart, a B2C e-commerce platform offering a wide range of assistive devices for all types of disabilities, making their innovative solutions globally accessible. Recently, they also launched offline "experience stores" for individuals with disabilities in Ahmedabad, Delhi, and Chennai.

Impact: Since its inception, TorchIt has made a significant impact on the lives of over 300,000 individuals with disabilities (and 900,000 including their family members) across more than 40 countries. Of these, over 40,000 users



have directly benefited from purchasing assistive devices through EnableMart, while more than 260,000 users have gained from their core devices. Over the next five years, they aim to impact 10 million lives by empowering individuals to live independently and fully.

Glimpses of the Award ceremony



Hilde Schwab giving the welcome speech



Shyam S Bhartia delivering his address



Shereen Bhan of CNBC, TV18



Address by Chief Guest, Hardeep Singh Puri, Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Government of India



Special Address by Prof Klaus Schwab, Founder & Executive Chairman, World Economic Forum & Co-Founder, Schwab Foundation for Social Entrepreneurship



Hari S Bhartia delivering his Vote of Thanks



Glimpses of the Award ceremony



For further details get in touch with:
Vivek Prakash

Jubilant Bhartia Foundation

1A, Institutional Area, Sec 16A, NOIDA - 201301

Phone: 0120-4361804

Email: jbf@jubl.com | Website: www.jubilantbhartiafoundation.com