



# CATALYST

Quarterly Newsletter

(January-March 2026)

Dear Reader,

Expanding access, strengthening health systems, advancing innovation – this quarter highlights India Health Fund's (IHF) continued efforts to drive scalable public health impact. This quarter, we announced funding to D-Nome, a deep tech startup for developing and validating the world's most affordable molecular screening tool for TB.

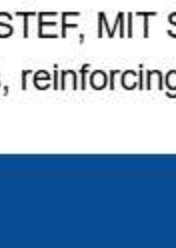
Building on IHF's proven model of supporting innovation development for public health challenges, IHF is beginning a focused effort in maternal health. Launching an innovation partnership, we aim to improve access to quality antenatal care and outcomes by supporting solutions that address key maternal health challenges. Across our portfolio, several IHF-supported innovations have also received recognition this quarter, reinforcing their potential for real-world impact. Excited to share that IHF, in partnership with ADB, will host a webinar on Innovative Technologies for Vector Control and Surveillance on 7th May 2026 – be sure to register via the link in the newsletter. In this edition of Catalyst, we welcome you to read on for these updates and more from India Health Fund.

With warm regards,  
India Health Fund team

## New Project Announcement

### Bolstering Molecular TB Screening in India

This quarter, IHF was pleased to announce its catalytic support to D-Nome – a deep tech startup to transform tuberculosis (TB) screening by enabling the development of the world's most affordable molecular screening tool for TB. IHF will enable development and validation of indigenously developed D-Nome's D-ISO NAAT molecular screening platform for TB, expanding equitable access to molecular TB screening at primary health centres (PHCs) and strengthening health systems. D-Nome's D-ISO NAAT platform offers an end-to-end PHC-compatible health system. IHF's support to this near point-of-care screening tool will focus on advancing product refinement, supporting technical and clinical validation, and enabling a clear pathway for future integration into national TB programmes.



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## Innovation in Focus

### Enabling AI-led Solutions for Public Health Impact

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is transforming almost every sector and public health is no longer untouched. From data-driven insights to tech-led action, AI is reshaping the public health landscape. IHF has been supporting innovation that are not just led by AI but powered with a promise to deliver solutions for the last-mile impact.

## TrackitNow's AI-powered Moskeet – A Smart Real-time Mosquito Surveillance and Prediction of Mosquito-borne Disease Outbreaks gets deployed

Vector-borne diseases, intensified by climate change, highlight the need for stronger real-time vector surveillance. IHF-supported TrackitNow's Moskeet is an AI-led, IoT-based smart mosquito trap enabling vector surveillance. IHF is excited to share some of its key highlights:

- Pilot studies show up to 60% reduction in mosquito density and ~40% decrease in disease burden in target areas, with improved hotspot detection aligned with WHO/NVBDPC data-driven vector-control guidance
- In partnership with Marut Drones, deployments have been carried out for the Government of Andhra Pradesh in Guntur (10 devices) and Visakhapatnam (8 devices), alongside additional installations (6 devices) in Hyderabad with the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC)
- Recognized globally, including validation in UNDP's Digital x Catalogue and awards from IndiaAI, USISTEF, MIT Solve, the McGovern Foundation, Amazon AWS, IPE Global and others, reinforcing its credibility for scale-up

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## Swaasa® by SalcIT Technologies Recognized for Deployment, Case Study Feature, and Top 20 Finalist Spot in AI-Led TB Screening

Active case finding (ACF) for tuberculosis relies on manual, often subjective screening methods, leaving many cases undiagnosed in India. Addressing these challenges, SalcIT Technologies developed Swaasa® - an AI-driven platform that analyzes cough sounds recorded via a smartphone to detect potential pulmonary TB. Supported by IHF for a multi-site technical validation study, Swaasa® has been selected for:

- Pilot deployment across government health facilities in Andhra Pradesh under the MedTech Innovation Challenge 2025, led by the Health, Medical & Family Welfare Department, Government of Andhra Pradesh, in collaboration with the Ratan Tata Innovation Hub, enabling screening of close to 10,000 individuals
- Featured in the AI Impact Casebooks at the India AI Impact Summit.

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## IHF-supported Innovations in TB: for last-mile impact and strengthening health systems

This quarter, we spotlighted a range of IHF-supported innovations that are strengthening the fight against tuberculosis - from AI-based screening and cough-analysis tools to point-of-care molecular tests, rapid triage assays, digital adherence technologies, safer sample-handling solutions, and One Health diagnostics linking animal and human health. By supporting their development and scale-up for integration into public health systems, IHF continues to advance progress toward TB elimination while also contributing to better lung health outcomes.

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## Strengthening Maternal Care: IHF's Catalytic Innovation-Led Approach

Maternal health remains central to strong public health systems, yet maternal mortality continues to pose challenges in India. Applying IHF's proven model of supporting innovation development for public health challenges, IHF is expanding its focus to prioritize maternal and newborn health. IHF has launched an innovation partnership under the EMBRACE programme (Empowering Mothers with Birth Readiness, Agency, and Care), focused on improving access to quality antenatal care and outcomes through affordable, minimally invasive diagnostics and pregnancy management tools. Over the next three years, IHF will build a structured pipeline of solutions in a set of maternal focused priority areas, supporting mid to late-stage solutions through product development, clinical and operational validation, and evidence generation; with deployment through local implementation partners who bring critical contextual knowledge and ensure last-mile delivery.

Stay tuned for more updates

## Upcoming Webinar: Innovative Technologies for Vector Control and Surveillance

7th May 2026 | 3:00 - 4:30 PM (GMT + 5:30) | Register Here: [bit.ly/InnovationsforVectorControl](https://bit.ly/InnovationsforVectorControl)

IHF in partnership with the Asian Development Bank will be hosting a webinar on 'Innovative Technologies for Vector Control and Surveillance' that will provide a platform to understand the current challenges in vector control and surveillance and showcase existing and emerging innovations that are enabling targeted interventions and resilient health system preparedness for vector control. Join the discussion by registering through the below given link.

Register here

## In the Media

India Health Fund was featured in the latest edition of India Today as part of their Republic Day 2026 special edition "Gems of India" series.

The featured story titled "Reducing the Disease Burden" highlighted IHF's commitment of generating a catalytic effect on India's progress towards addressing pressing public health challenges. Supported by Tata Trusts, IHF is reimaging healthcare through technology-led innovation, supporting Made-In-India solutions that address local health challenges.

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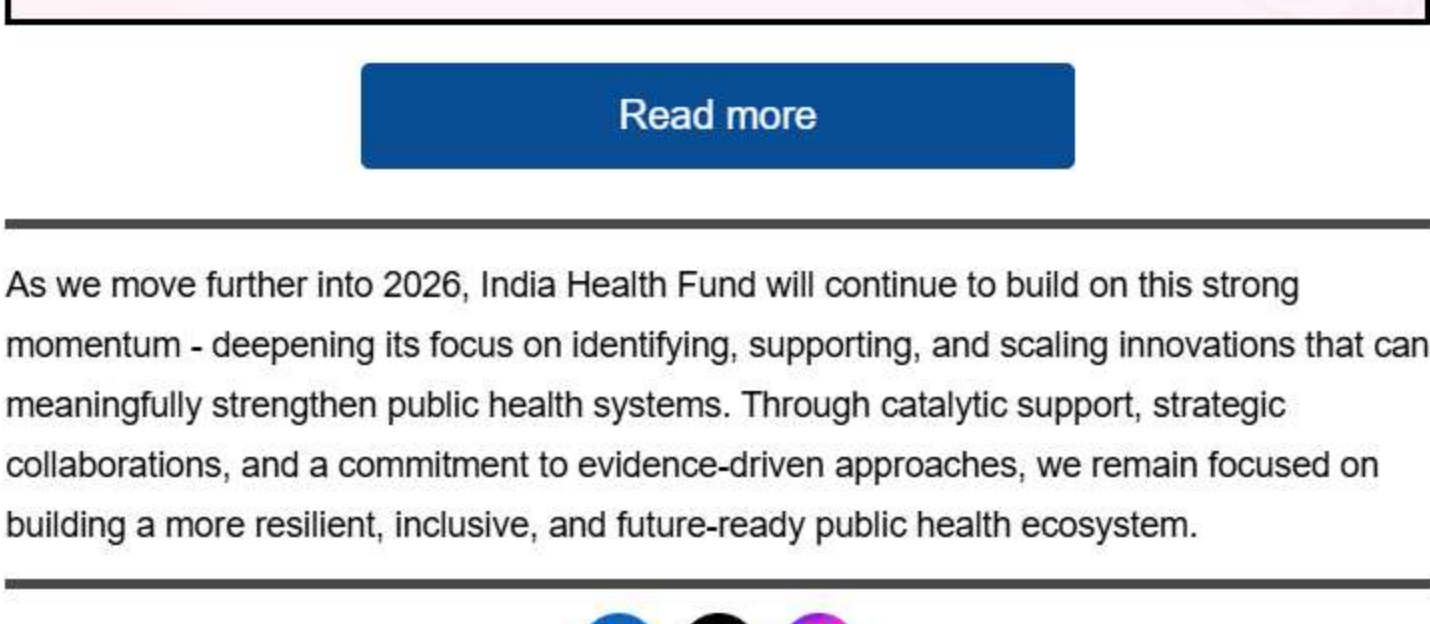
## IHF CEO, Mr. Madhav Joshi authored an article – Stalling the Silent Spread of Tuberculosis Cases:

An insightful article in The Hindu Business Line, authored by our CEO, Mr. Madhav Joshi, explored the evolving narrative of India's tuberculosis response. In the article, he highlights, the notification of over 26 lakh TB cases in 2025, the highest ever, is not a setback, but a sign of progress. Increased detection reflects stronger surveillance, earlier diagnosis, and fewer cases going undetected or spreading silently. This shift underscores an important truth: in the journey towards elimination, closing the detection gap is exactly what success looks like in the early stages.

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## Stakeholder Engagements and Initiatives

**Winter Dialogue on Responsible AI for Sustainable Excellence (RAISE)**  
Director – Portfolio Mr. Raghavendra Rao attended RAISE Dialogue, as part of the pre-event India AI Impact Summit. He participated as a panelist in the panel discussion 'Governance AI for Maternal and Child Health: Ethics, Equity, and Diplomacy', highlighting IHF's active role in science and technology-backed innovations in responsible AI for public good.



**Multi-Stakeholder Convergence Workshop**  
Director- Portfolio Raghavendra Rao PV and Senior Associate- Portfolio Aditi Deshpande participated in the Regional Multi-Stakeholder Convergence Workshop (Western Region) on India's National AI Strategy for Health (NAISH), hosted by Indian Institute of Western Region – Bombay (IITB) with the Koita Centre for Digital Health IIT Bombay prior to the India AI Impact Summit. Led and convened by the ICMR-NIRDHDS in collaboration with WHO-SEARO and regional partners, the workshop brought together senior leaders and experts from government, academia, industry, healthcare institutions, think tanks, and other stakeholders to review, validate, and strengthen the draft Strategy through collaborative, evidence-based discussions.



**Prince Mahidol Award Conference (PMAC) 2026 for Climate x Health Action**  
IHF CEO Mr. Madhav Joshi attended the PMAC 2026 for Climate and Health Action. He was part of three panel discussions, 'Financing Sustainable and Resilient Healthcare Systems' organized by The Rockefeller Foundation and ASK Health Asia, and 'Multi-sector Partnership Models for Scale "Public-Private Philanthropy Synergies" in Climate-Health Action' organized by Asian Development Bank (ADB) Bank, ASK Health Asia and Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB).



Speaking at the event, he emphasized on the development of effective scalable and bankable models, cross-sector partnerships and effective financing mechanisms, all with the objective of ensuring wide scale-up of solutions that can deliver significant outcomes at the climate and health nexus.

The panel discussion – 'Connected Futures: Equity, Climate, and Health – How to navigate and use diplomacy in a complex political reality' was organized by NIMS University International Health Policy Program Foundation and Health Diplomacy Institutional Network brought together leaders across health, climate, technology, and policy to deliberate how diplomacy and international stakeholders must adapt to protect planetary and human health.



In this discussion, Madhav Joshi shared IHF's key experiences and approaches in advancing catalytic support to innovations at the climate and health intersection, to protect communities at risk, and cross-sector partnerships for strengthening healthcare systems, emphasizing IHF's critical role in tackling this growing public health burden.

## AVPN Health Impact Leadership Forum (Road to BioAsia 2026)

IHF CEO Madhav Joshi was at the AVPN Health Impact Leadership Forum (Road to BioAsia 2026), where health leaders came together to answer one question: how do we scale equitable health solutions in India? Speaking as a panelist in the panel discussion 'From Risk to Scale: Climate x Health Lighthouse Fund Innovations in Action', he shared key insights into India Health Fund's catalytic role in supporting, scaling and de-risking innovations for last-mile public health impact and turning climate challenges into investable health solutions.

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## Blogs

This quarter at IHF, we published two blogs

**Health and Healthcare in Small Transitioning Cities** written by Mr. Paresh Parasnis and Ms. Sneha Palit from our partner Samyak (Collective Good Foundation) that highlights a landscaping study done by them in five such transitioning cities of Uttar Pradesh.

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**Bridging the Gap: How Innovation and Philanthropy Can Redefine Maternal and Child Health in India** written by Dr. Aatmika Nair - Manager, Portfolio, IHF; Samrudhi Khanna - Sr. Associate, Portfolio, IHF and Devanshi Patel - Manager, Strategy, Partnerships and Impact, IHF. The blog explores how innovation and philanthropy can play a catalytic role in transforming maternal and newborn health.

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As we move further into 2026, India Health Fund will continue to build on this strong momentum - deepening its focus on identifying, supporting, and scaling innovations that can meaningfully strengthen public health systems. Through catalytic support, strategic collaborations, and a commitment to evidence-driven approaches, we remain focused on building a more resilient, inclusive, and future-ready public health ecosystem.



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