INDIA
HEALTH
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CATALYST

Quarterly Newsletter
(July-September 2026)

Dear Reader,

Catalyzing philanthropy for addressing public health challenges is extremely important to bring meaningful and impactful change. This quarter, we are proud to share many exciting updates that reflect our action in catalyzing philanthropy at scale. We organized a convening on ‘Catalyzing Philanthropic Action on Heat and Health Adaptation’ bringing together diverse stakeholders across climate and health adaptation to explore how philanthropy can catalyze action across the heat-health adaptation pathway from evidence generation and innovation to validation, government integration and scale.

From bringing funders, innovators, researchers, and ecosystem leaders together to advance heat and health adaptation, to supporting homegrown technologies and AI-enabled solutions towards validation, scale, and public-health adoption, our work reflects the power of collective action, catalytic capital, and innovation in addressing complex health challenges. At India Health Fund (IHF), we bridge critical funding gaps and accelerate science- and technology-backed innovations, from product development and validation to market scale-up and public-health adoption, helping translate promising solutions into better health outcomes.

With regards,
India Health Fund

Feature Story:

Catalyzing Philanthropic Action for Heat and Health Adaptation

Extreme heat is one of the fastest-growing threats to human health. In India, the challenge is particularly acute: 57% of districts, home to 76% of the population, face high to very high heat risk. Health-system strengthening is critical to protecting populations, yet investment in heat-health adaptation remains limited, leaving significant gaps in evidence generation, innovation, preparedness and the scale-up of effective solutions.

Against this backdrop, IHF convened an event in New Delhi on August 24th, 2026, at the Indian Institute of Technology Delhi (IIT-D), ***'Catalyzing Philanthropic Action on Heat and Health Adaptation'***. The convening brought together funders, innovators, researchers and ecosystem leaders to explore how philanthropy can catalyze action from generating evidence and developing solutions to validation, government integration and scale.

IHF is taking a lead role in orchestrating a heat-health collaborative to bring stakeholders together around shared goals and accelerate action towards health systems that are proactive, equitable and resilient. The convening was a beginning; the next step is to turn these conversations into partnerships, investments and action at scale.

Catalytic Philanthropic Action in Heat and Health Adaptation
Catalytic Philanthropic Action in Heat and Health Adaptation

Read more

IHF Report Launch: Heat and Health Adaptation at Scale

IHF launched its report, **Heat and Health Adaptation at Scale: Evidence on Gaps, Innovations and Investment Opportunities from India**, at our convening on 'Catalyzing

Philanthropic Action in Heat and Health' in New Delhi.

The report brings together evidence on the health impacts of extreme heat, emerging innovations, gaps in the current ecosystem, examines the evolution of India's heat-health ecosystem and showcase some innovative exemplars that are working across cooling, digital intelligence, health-system strengthening, behavioural solutions and evidence generation. The report highlights the need to recognize heat-health risk as a multidimensional challenge and the need to translate climate intelligence into timely health action, build heat resilient health systems, and ensure equitable protection for all the communities.

GO BEYOND
Panel discussion:

Read more

Call for Expression of Interest (EoI):

Identifying Innovative Solutions to Address Maternal and Child Health Challenges

IHF invited EoIs from innovators developing impactful solutions to address critical unmet needs in **Maternal and Child Health** (MCH) in India, with a focus on low-resource settings. Despite notable progress in improving MCH outcomes over the past decade, critical gaps remain in the early detection of high-risk pregnancies and timely diagnosis of antenatal conditions, particularly in low-resource and underserved settings. Through this EoI, we aimed to identify mid-to-late stage and market-ready point-of-care (PoC) diagnostics and digital health solutions across the antenatal care continuum. The EoI intended to support innovation scouting and pipeline development for promising- solutions with the potential to improve antenatal care outcomes in India. Selected innovations may be considered for future engagement opportunities, followed by invitation to submit a full proposal through an RFP process. Thank you everyone who applied. The portal is now closed for further evaluation.

Stay Tuned for More Updates

Innovation in Focus

Wobble's TBSend Card selected under ANRF-MAHA MedTech Mission: IHF-supported Wobble Base Bioresearch Pvt. Ltd.'s indigenous TBSend Card technology has been selected for support under the ANRF MAHA MedTech Mission, implemented by the Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF) in collaboration with the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and the Gates Foundation. TBSend Card is a novel sputum transportation & storage device for DNA extraction for NAAT based testing of TB. Supported by IHF, TBSend Card has successfully passed independent biosafety testing at ICMR-National Institute for Research in Tuberculosis, Chennai and is now set for clinical validation at ICMR-NIRT. Of the 167 shortlisted and 33 high-impact projects selected Wobble Base was selected as one among the seven in the Diagnostics category under this national MedTech initiative. With ANRF MAHA MedTech Mission support, Wobble Base aims to build on the evidence generated through the earlier development and validation stages and advance the TBSend Card ecosystem towards regulatory advancement, scalable manufacturing and eventual public-health deployment.

Read more

Climate Health Vulnerability Index: Building Capacity to Strengthen Climate – Health

Action: Climate Health Vulnerability Index (CHVI) is an AI-based decision support framework developed by Khushi Baby that enables health systems to identify risks early and respond effectively. Supported by IHF in developing CHVI, this quarter we are delighted to share completion of 7 Heat-Health workshops across Rajasthan, covering 44 districts and 113 government officials, strengthening district-level climate-health planning. HHVI is now informing targeted interventions for vulnerable populations, with implementation being verified through district follow-ups and frontline worker engagement. Based on the integration of CHVI in the state of Rajasthan, the Rajasthan Government has implemented:

- Climate informed depts – Nagar-Nigam collaboration, RMNCH ORS packet distribution at NCD clinics and ANC visit; cool roofing for nearly 200 houses
- Localized research - district level heat and health mortality analysis is undertaken in 2 district– Bikaner and Dholpur
- Health facility assessment is underway for 43 districts in the state of Rajasthan.

Read more

Building Smarter Dengue Surveillance with AI: As climate change and urbanization increase the risk of vector-borne diseases, proactive vector surveillance is becoming critical for effective public health response. IHF along with AVPN and Bayer Foundation have supported William J Clinton Foundation (WJCF) and ARTPARK (IISc, Bangalore) to create a sustainable, institutionalized, climate-resilient urban health model that will transform India's dengue response through predictive, data-driven, and community-embedded surveillance systems. SHIELD (Surveillance and Health Intelligence for Equitable Local Dengue Response) is a public health initiative that integrates AI-led dengue forecasting, digital surveillance, and community-based response systems into government workflows to enable proactive, data-driven, and equitable control of vector-borne diseases.

This quarter, the initiative advanced in ward-level action planning, engaging 143 urban primary health centres to develop dengue preparedness plans and strengthening risk-based planning by Medical Officers. Capacity building and training were initiated for Medical Officers. Ward-level action plans were completed across all wards in five GBA city corporations, supported through training and field mentoring.

Read more

Partnerships Update

IHF continues its journey at the intersection of climate and health with the launch of Nexa Lighthouse: This quarter, Grand Challenges Canada (GCC) and Asian Venture Philanthropy Network (AVPN) along with India Health Fund, Bayer Foundation, Novo Nordisk Foundation, Sanofi Foundation, Temasek Foundation, launched the Nexa Lighthouse, a new initiative to fund locally led innovations that address the growing impacts of climate change on health across Asia and the Pacific.

Climate change is already reshaping the public health landscape, shifting vector-borne disease patterns, extreme heat exposure, and worsening air quality with Asia and the Pacific standing out as the world's most disaster-prone region. Nexa Lighthouse is designed to get catalytic capital to locally led innovators addressing exactly these three risk areas, faster than traditional funding pathways typically allow.

For India Health Fund, this collaboration reflects an important part of our commitment: supporting innovative, locally relevant solutions that can strengthen health systems and build resilience against emerging health challenges.

Uniting for Climate and Health:
A New Coalition
avpn
CONFERENCE
2026
In partnership with:
Grand Challenges Canada
Grands Défis Canada
partnership
Canada
Nordisk Foundation

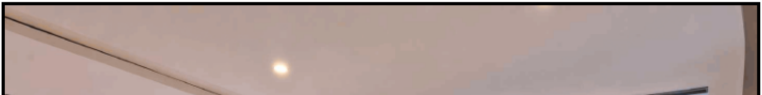
More updates to follow soon!

Stakeholder Engagement Initiatives

Maharashtra TB technical consultation meeting: This quarter, IHF was glad to participate in a technical consultation on TB elimination efforts in Maharashtra, jointly convened by the Global Coalition Against TB, Foundation for Medical Research (FMR), and Global Health Strategies in July. Raghavendra Rao, Director – Portfolio and Dr. Aishwarya Aiyar, Senior Associate – Portfolio from IHF joined the consultation which brought together policymakers, program managers, researchers, clinicians, implementation and industry partners to discuss the progress made and the opportunities ahead for achieving a TB-Mukt Maharashtra.

Health Technology Assessment (HTA) workshop: This quarter, IHF participated in the Health Technology Assessment (HTA) Workshop organized by SINE IIT Bombay in collaboration with ICMR–NIRWoH and HTAIn, DHR. The session provided an overview of HTA as a tool to support evidence-based decision-making in public health programmes, covering its current applications, principles, and frameworks. Representing IHF, Dr. Aishwarya Aiyar, Senior Associate – Portfolio, joined the gathering and reflected on the importance of strengthening evidence-generation pathways to support the adoption and scale-up of effective health technologies in India.

Innovative Financing for TB and Health Priorities: This quarter, IHF participated in the workshop on *Leveraging India's Social Stock Exchange (SSE) for TB & Health*, organized by JSIPL with support from the U.S. Department of State, NSE, and SEBI. The workshop focused on exploring the Social Stock Exchange as a potential mechanism to strengthen domestic health financing and help bridge the social development financing gap. Representing IHF, Dr. Aishwarya Aiyar, Senior Associate – Portfolio, attended the workshop and engaged in discussions on how innovative financing platforms can support health and TB-related priorities in India.



LEVERAGING INDIA'S SOCIAL STOCK EXCHANGE FOR TB & HEALTH

Shaping the Future of Maternal & Child Health: Our team including Raghavendra Rao PV, Director – Portfolio; Devanshi Patel, Manager – Strategy and Partnerships; and Samrudhi Khanna, Senior Associate – Portfolio, joined the discussions at INSPIRE 2026: From Policy to Practice – Shaping the Future of Maternal & Child Health, a high-level policy dialogue convened by the Fernandez Foundation in partnership with NIMS University, Jaipur. As a session partner, IHF contributed to the conversation on science- and technology-led solutions for maternal and child health, with discussions spanning screening and diagnostics, infection control, care pathways, surveillance, and the role of public-private collaboration in taking innovations to low-resource settings.

From Policy to Practice
Welcome to
INSPIRE
2026
Fernandez

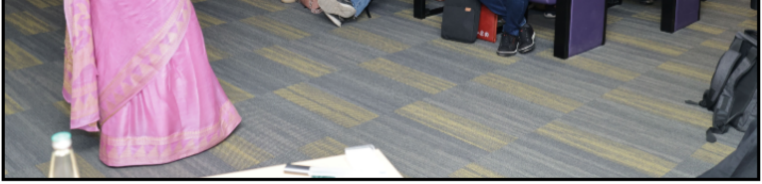
Visit to GIMS Medical Innovation Centre Public Hospital-Based MedTech Incubator (CMI-GIMS): Devanshi Patel – Manager Strategy, Partnerships and Impact at IHF, visited CMI- GIMS to learn more about its unique healthcare innovation ecosystem. The visit provided an opportunity to understand CMI-GIMS's approach to clinical validation, diagnostics innovation and translating healthcare solutions into real-world settings, areas that are highly relevant to IHF's work.

GIMS StartUp
राजकीय आयुर्विज्ञान संस्थान
Centre For Medical Innovation
1ST PUBLIC HOSPITAL BASED
MEDICAL IN BATION CENTR
IN UTTAR H
राजकीय आयुर्विज्ञान संस्थान
CENTRE for MEDICAL INNOVATION
Government Institute of Medical Sciences
GIMS PulseX
INDIA's First
STARTUP CONNEXT
EASY KNOWLEDGE
VENTURE
Media Partner
Event Partner

Advancing Integrated Lung Health: IHF contributed to the multi-stakeholder consultation on 'Advancing Integrated Lung Health' that brought together government, clinicians, innovators, researchers, and development partners, convened by the National Health Mission, Assam in collaboration with Jhpiego and Sattva Consulting, with support from Johnson & Johnson. The dialogue highlighted the value of leveraging existing health system platforms, digital innovation, and cross-sector collaboration to strengthen coordination, enable earlier diagnosis, and improve continuity of care.

Advancing Integrated Lung Health

Joint ICMR-DHR Workshop on Health Technology Assessment & Medical Innovations Patent Mitra: Ms. Devanshi Patel, Manager – Partnerships, represented IHF at a workshop on Health Technology Assessment (HTA) and MedTech & Patent Mitra, held at IIT Bombay on 1 June 2026. The workshop was jointly organized by ICMR and DHR, in collaboration with the Wadhwani Innovation and Translation Centre (WITC), IIT Bombay. Designed for healthcare innovators and startups, the session covered key areas including HTA, patent facilitation, and technology transfer — aimed at strengthening participants' understanding of intellectual property processes and enabling more effective translation of innovations into impactful healthcare solutions. A key highlight was ICMR's overview of the range of support available to innovators through its various schemes across all stages of development, alongside an introduction to HTA, a discussion on the importance of HTA in evaluating an innovation's suitability for adoption within the public health system and resources available at ICMR for supporting innovators for having their innovations assessed.



5th Annual CSR Conclave 2026 – IIT Bombay: Ms Gurvinder Bawa Parmar, Director, Strategy, Partnerships and Finance, and Ms. Devanshi Patel, Manager – Strategy, Partnerships and Impact, attended the 5th Annual CSR Conclave, themed "Fuelling Technology for Nation Building," held at IIT Bombay's Research Park (ASPIRE) on 5 June 2026. The conclave was organized by IIT Bombay and brought together corporate leaders, CSR heads, and innovators to explore how purposeful partnerships can advance India's progress in frontier technologies. The conclave saw the launch of the Annual CSR Catalogue 2026, showcasing 400 potential projects across a range of themes for industry collaboration, alongside a Tech Showcase featuring 15 demonstrations of technologies developed at IIT Bombay. The event drew over 180 corporate delegates and 400 attendees overall, with 16 expert speakers across sessions.

Expert Blogs

Dr. Jayasree K. Iyer, CEO - Access to Medicine Foundation, The Netherlands wrote an expert blog on **'The Trillion Dollar Opportunity: Turning the Tide on Maternal and Child Health'** wherein she explored why expanding access to life-saving health products and innovations for maternal and child health is essential to building stronger, more resilient health systems. The blog also reflects the role of partnerships across governments, industry and development partners in accelerating progress where it matters most.

Read more

Priyank Hirani, Vice President of Programs, data.org, wrote an expert blog on **'Beyond AI: Building the Human Infrastructure for Climate and Health'** wherein he explored why the next breakthrough in climate and public health won't come from better algorithms-but from the people who translate data and AI into decisions.

Read more

As we reflect on this quarter, we celebrate the collective efforts of innovators, researchers, policymakers, healthcare providers, and partners who are working to ensure that together we can be a catalyst for better health outcomes and improved lives.