Seniors In Seva

Gupshup gazette

NEWSLETTER
APRIL - JUNE 2026

EDITOR'S NOTE

Welcome to the very first edition of our newsletter — a space created to celebrate our shared mission, highlight the impact we're making together, and keep every volunteer and partner connected to the heart of our work. Thank you for being part of this new chapter and for the energy you bring to our mission.

The newsletter will be published on a quarterly basis. In each edition, you can expect updates for the quarter of our ongoing and completed projects, stories of impact from the field, and highlights celebrating the dedication of our volunteers and partners. We'll also share upcoming opportunities to get involved, and insights that strengthen our collective mission.

YEARLY ROUND UP

Our Fourth Year of Growth

This year has been a special one for Seniors in Seva. As we step into our 4th year, we have been able to deepen our work, strengthen our systems, and expand our impact across regions. Our mission of offering pro-bono consulting to grassroots organizations, young nonprofits, social enterprises, and Farmer Producer Companies (FPCs) grew in both scale and maturity. A big highlight this year was the growth of our Independent Directors Development Programme (IDDP). Along with NAFPO, we expanded the model to Transforming Rural India (TRI), placing experts across dynamic FPCs. It's a milestone we are truly proud of.

None of this would be possible without our volunteers, partners, and well-wishers. You're the heart of SIS.

Our volunteer community didn't just grow in numbers — it grew in depth, commitment, and energy. With 148 registered volunteers, 47 actively engaged, and 1,140 hours contributed, the last year shows how every hour you give strengthens an organization, a community, and a dream.

148 registered volunteers	47 volunteers actively engaged	1,140 hours contributed
44 partners joined	18 partners received support	40 active assignments

In a recently conducted volunteer engagement survey, **63%** of you mentioned that you joined SIS for purpose and fulfilment, **88%** were satisfied with their projects, and many were eager to contribute more—especially in roles that match your skills—we're now working on ways to bring more volunteers into meaningful assignments.

Last year, 44 partners joined us, 18 received structured project support worth **₹22,80,000** in pro-bono value, and we expanded our network with new partners while strengthening ties with NAFPO, Women on Wings, and MAHAVAN. New partners included Suraksha, ISAP Foundation, Gyan Shakti Vidyalaya, BISLD, Earth Trust, SWATI, Creating Futures, Agastya International, and more.

Across 40 active assignments, volunteers supported governance, marketing, HR, finance, research, fundraising, and education — strengthening FPC governance through the IDDP, enabling market linkages for women-led enterprises and weavers, building HR systems, improving financial controls, contributing to FEED's flagship research, training organizations in fundraising, and delivering education and mentorship programs such as AI for Education and communication workshops.

We're stepping into the future, focused on strengthening corporate-to-FPC governance pipelines, expanding Masterclass for Good, launching a DIY volunteering platform, and increasing volunteer participation and engagement.

OUR COMMUNITY

Our Growing Community of Engaged Volunteers

Welcome to our team, **Ashish Athawale**, **Swapan Kumar Dey**, **Arifa Sultana**, **Mary John**, and **Deepali Oroskar**! We are thrilled to expand our volunteer community with individuals who are true experts in their respective fields. Their unique skills and rich experience bring immense value to our mission, and we extend our warmest welcome to each of them!

Ashish Athawale | Swapan Kumar Dey | Arifa Sultana | Mary John | Deepali Oroskar

PARTNERSHIPS

Our Partner and Projects Ecosystem Expands

We welcomed the following partners last quarter:

Srijanatmak Manushi Sanstha (SMS)

A Delhi-based non-profit organization established in 2003 to empower marginalized women and children. The NGO drives community development through initiatives on education, health camps, and vocational training designed to foster financial independence.

Wadhwani Foundation

A non-profit tech organization operating in multiple countries across Asia, Africa, and Latin America. The organization focuses on four primary initiatives: entrepreneurship development, workforce skilling, innovation and research, and government digital transformation. Funded primarily through philanthropic contributions from its founder, the foundation utilizes an in-house technology platform to deliver its training and educational programs alongside a network of government, academic, and corporate partners.

Lepra Society

A non-governmental organization in India dedicated to diagnosing, treating, and rehabilitating people affected by neglected diseases, primarily leprosy, lymphatic filariasis, and tuberculosis. Working across marginalized communities, the organization focuses on providing essential healthcare, disability prevention, and specialized supportive care to eliminate the stigma associated with these conditions and help patients restore their health and dignity.

IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS

What We Achieved Together

This quarter, we launched **15 new projects** centred on institutional growth, strategic communication, and community impact. Resource mobilization took centre stage, with five initiatives dedicated to fundraising, alongside efforts to revamp the website and author key annual and achievement reports. The remaining projects drove operational and technical advancements — such as implementing financial software, developing a program MIS, and creating a cutting-edge Responsible AI framework. We also advanced field-specific strategies, ranging from safe migration training to agri-tech and animal feed business modelling. Notably, we have already successfully completed three of these projects this quarter.

VOICES FROM THE FIELD

Partner satisfaction remains the best benchmark of our success. Below is the recent feedback received from the ISAP Foundation regarding the successful rollout of our agricultural value chain and FPO development models:

> *We are extremely satisfied with Ms. Karuna Yarasi's suitability and project delivery. She brought relevant expertise in agricultural value chains, government procurement systems, and FPO operations. Her proactive research into government policies, NITI Aayog papers, and market mechanisms demonstrated strong domain knowledge and commitment to evidence-based planning. The Market Linkage Plan she delivered is highly practical and directly addresses the real baseline challenges of the 15 FPOs analyzed. The documentation she provided, including the eSaras registration guidance and procurement partnership frameworks, is ready for immediate implementation by our field teams. This model works beautifully and creates significant value for the development sector.*
>
> — ISAP Foundation

An Independent Director assisting a Farmer Producer Company with compliances.

MOMENTS FROM THE FIELD

Our Work, In Pictures

A HEARTFELT THANK YOU

Every project, every hour, every conversation — it all matters. Thank you for being part of Seniors in Seva and for helping build a stronger, more resilient social sector. We continue to welcome your thoughts on how we can work together to make a greater impact on our community, and would love to hear from you.

Share your views and suggestions with us at malini.johnson@seniorsinseva.org