

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**American India Foundation Annual Bay Area Gala Raises \$2.1M to
Create Livelihoods for India's Underprivileged Women and Youth.**

San Francisco, CA, May 7, 2022 — After a two year hiatus, American India Foundation's (AIF) Bay Area Chapter hosted its sold out annual gala to celebrate its accomplishments over the last 20 years. With over 70 percent new attendees, AIF attributes its success to the tireless efforts of co-founder Lata Krishnan, and the California Board and its co-chairs Sumir Chadha and Riaz Taplin. Guests included some of the San Francisco Bay Area's most influential corporations, venture capitalists, entrepreneurs, Fortune 500 CEOs, luminaries, and community leaders to raise funds in support of AIF's programs across India.

AIF recognized Jay Chaudhry, CEO, Chairman and Founder of Zscaler with the Corporate Leadership Award, who supported AIF's Covid relief efforts and personally gave \$3M towards the crisis and his employees supported our efforts with another \$250K. Global board co-chair, Lata Krishnan said, "It is AIF's privilege to collaborate with a corporate leader who takes the time and effort to understand the plight of the underprivileged and invests in their future with thoughtfulness and empathy."

After undertaking a monumental life-saving relief effort in India during the COVID-19 crisis, AIF is now focused on rebuilding the lives of those suffering from the more medium term impact of the Covid crisis across all our programmatic verticals – education, health and livelihoods.

Nishant Pandey, CEO of AIF said, "We have prioritized children who have suffered loss of learning, nutrition and emotional well-being due to prolonged closure of schools and anganwadi centers where they used to get mid-day meals, Leveraging our unique, multi-pronged approach on health, education and livelihoods we are helping children bounce back from the impacts of Covid."

To help Street Vendors - India's nano entrepreneurs - whose businesses were destroyed by COVID-induced lockdowns, AIF announced Project Entre-Prerana, that uses an innovative AI-enabled underwriting and loan disbursement platform that provides loans in real time and removes barriers to capital for street vendors, entrepreneurs at the bottom of the economic pyramid. This large scale program aims to serve 1 million street vendors over the next 24 months by unlocking \$100 million of working capital loans and creating incremental income enhancement of \$1 billion, with an investment of just \$4 per street vendor, a 250x return on investment.

The event also highlighted a program that connects rural youth to urban jobs and heard from Shabana Khan, 28, the epitome of courage, resilience, determination, and hope. She was fully abled at birth, but due to an unfortunate accident, she lost her upper limbs at the age of 8. She has persisted through hardships and discrimination, and completed her high school despite facing social and economic

challenges. AIF's new inclusive jobs initiative <https://inclusivejobs.in/inclusivejobs/> bridges the divide for differently abled people and connects rural youth to urban jobs.

About the American India Foundation

The American India Foundation is committed to catalyzing social and economic change in India and building a lasting bridge between the United States and India through high-impact interventions in education, livelihoods, public health, and leadership development, with a particular emphasis on empowering girls and women to achieve gender equity. Working closely with local communities, AIF partners with NGOs to develop and test innovative solutions and with governments to create and scale sustainable impact. Founded in 2001 at the initiative of President Bill Clinton following a request from Prime Minister Vajpayee, AIF has impacted the lives of 12.9 million of India's poor in 31 states and union territories.

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