

EY Foundation



सेवा परमो धर्मः।

कल्पवृक्ष की कहानी

The wish-fulfilling tree

During the Samudra Manthan, the great churning of the ocean of milk, it is said that many unique and magical things came to the surface. The **Kalpavriksh**, or the wish-fulfilling tree, was one of them. The tree did not just fulfill material wishes, it connected humanity with the Cosmos.

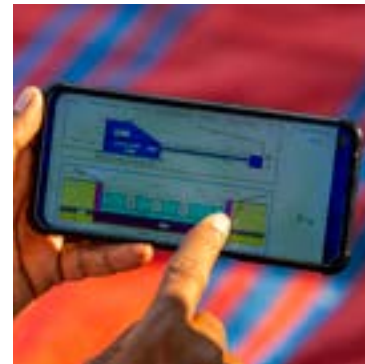
The tale of the **Kalpavriksh** is a part of Hindu mythology. But its references are found even in Buddhism and Jainism. The tree that fulfills wishes is also found in Chinese, Norse and Irish folk lores.

In 2004, when the EY Foundation started, its goal was to help fulfill the wishes and dreams of the underprivileged.

We feel inspired to have seen the resilience of the communities we serve and the soaring dreams and achievements of the individuals and by partnering with communities and non-profits, we have witnessed the transformation of communities with just a little helping hand.

At **EY Foundation**, the **idea of कल्पवृक्ष** transcends fulfillment of dreams. It is about bringing lasting change and planting the seeds for the future.





Click onto the page numbers to explore



EY Foundation

Rooted in purpose

Established in 2004 with the mission to uplift different sections of society, the **EY Foundation** focuses on three core areas



Education

Empowering students with knowledge, skills, creative thinking and opportunities to fulfill their dreams of a brighter future



Entrepreneurship

Empowering rural women and improving incomes through sustainable livelihoods



Environment

Protecting environment through water conservation and afforestation



Rajiv Memani

Regional Managing Partner -
Africa India Region

Over the past few decades, India has transformed its economic story. Stronger institutions, expanding infrastructure and greater connectivity continue to unlock opportunities for millions. In the last decade, in particular, we have seen the pace of formalization and digitization accelerate, helping aspirations of a young nation find new expression.

Yet, in a nation of 1.4 billion people that is still developing, we know that progress is uneven and the work is far from done. Inclusive growth therefore means reaching every community, creating dignity of work and creating equitable opportunities.

We started with Education as our core area of intervention given its power of transforming not just individuals, but also families and communities for generations.

Today, the efforts of the EY Foundation are anchored in three focus areas: enabling education to build employability and livelihoods, empowering women to

participate more fully in the economy, and promoting sustainable practices to protect the planet and communities. Over the years, we have worked with committed partners to create pathways that are practical, measurable and sustainable.

Today, it fills my heart with quiet satisfaction that through our flagship Scholarship program, EY Disha Scholarship, more than 10,000 talented students from underprivileged backgrounds are taking confident steps toward a brighter future. Over half a million women in over 2,000 villages are contributing to their family's income with dignity. Initiatives in water conservation and environmental restoration are helping farming communities in different parts of India make significant progress.

Looking ahead, we are committed to strengthening and scaling our programs, especially in environmental stewardship and water conservation, both very critical to the nation's economic development.

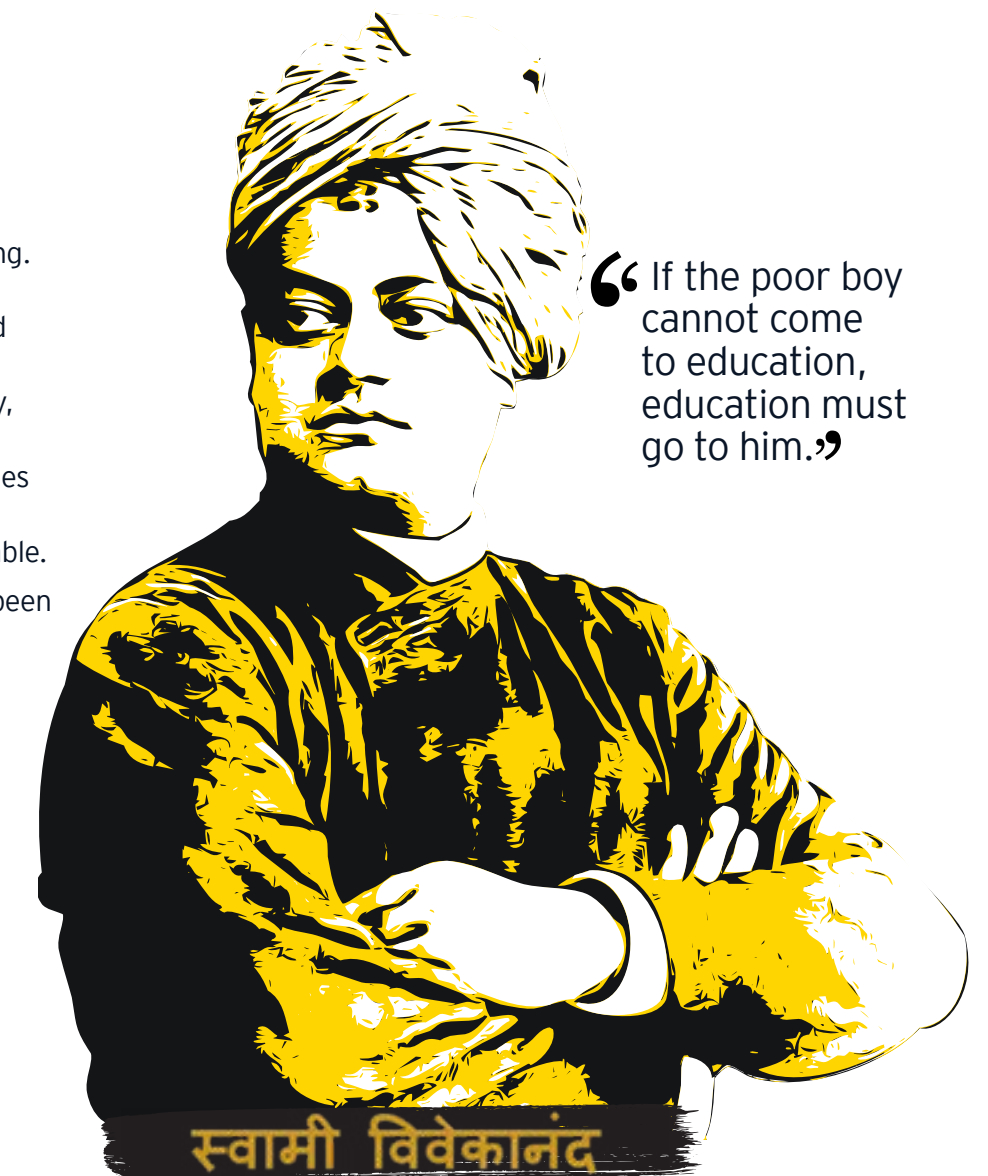
This book is an effort to capture the essence of our journey so far, through endearing stories of some of the people whose lives the Foundation has touched.

The achievements would not have been possible without the enthusiasm and commitment of so many individuals who have worked tirelessly to build the Foundation. To my colleagues, both past and present, thank you for believing in the vision and bringing your passion and devotion to everything we do. The NGOs and volunteers who support us at every step—it is their partnership which has helped us turn vision into reality.

Most importantly, it is the courage and determination of the people whose lives we have touched that inspires us every day to be like the **Kalpavriksh** that fulfils the wishes and dreams of others and builds a better society.

This is, however, just the beginning. We remain committed to playing our part in building a better world as responsible citizens. When the country moves together—industry, government, civil society and communities—its potential becomes limitless, and the future we seek feels not just possible, but inevitable.

Thank you to everyone who has been part of this journey.





Sourabh Anand

Head - EY India Foundation

Across classrooms, farms and villages, we have seen one truth repeat itself: when communities become co-creators of change, transformation becomes sustainable, scalable and deeply human.

For over two decades, EY Foundation has worked with communities across India with a deep belief that meaningful social change is built not through isolated acts of giving, but through long-term partnerships rooted in trust, dignity and shared purpose.

Emphasis on meaningful, inclusive and sustainable development is integral to our values and identity. While the scale and scope of our work have evolved over the years, our guiding principles have remained constant – listening deeply to communities and designing programs that create enduring and scalable impact.

India's development continues to present both immense opportunity and significant challenges. Female labour force participation remains below global averages, while many women continue to be concentrated

in informal and low-income work. Gaps in education, digital access and employability still limit social mobility for millions of young people from underserved communities. Yet within these realities, we also see resilience, aspiration and extraordinary potential.

Working closely with students, youth and women entrepreneurs has reinforced an important lesson: development solutions cannot be designed in isolation from lived realities. In a country as diverse as India, meaningful progress comes when communities are not beneficiaries alone, but co-creators of change.

This philosophy is reflected across all our focus areas.

In education, our initiatives extend beyond scholarships to strengthening language, interpersonal and digital skills through mentorship, institutional partnerships and holistic support

systems. One of the most rewarding outcomes has been seeing EY Disha scholars return as mentors, professionals and changemakers, creating a powerful ripple effect across families and communities.

Nearly 60% of EY Foundation scholarship recipients are girls, which underscores our commitment to expanding access where it matters most.

Another of our greatest learnings from working at the grassroots has been that scalable outcomes require systemic thinking of collective capacity-building, institutional support, shared learning and community-led structures that sustain change over time.

Working with entities such as the Central Square Foundation on improving foundational education for over 560,000 primary school students in Uttar Pradesh and partnerships with institutions like Ramakrishna Mission schools reflect our commitment to enabling not only academic achievement, but also confidence, values and leadership.

Our rural empowerment initiatives recognize the transformative role women play in strengthening families and communities. Across states such as Odisha, West

Bengal and Rajasthan, our rural entrepreneurship programs have engaged more than 480,000 women through Self-Help Groups, Village Organizations and Cluster-Level Federations. Many women who once had limited access to markets or financial systems have today become confident microentrepreneurs, diversifying livelihoods, increasing incomes and investing meaningfully in their children's futures.

This belief also anchors our environmental initiatives. From water conservation projects in Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Rajasthan and Ladakh to broader livelihood-linked ecological efforts, communities have played a central role in shaping and sustaining outcomes. Together, these initiatives now hold the potential to conserve nearly 1.5 billion litres of water annually, strengthening both ecological resilience and livelihood security.

As the development landscape evolves, so must our response. Our next phase of work continues to focus on areas

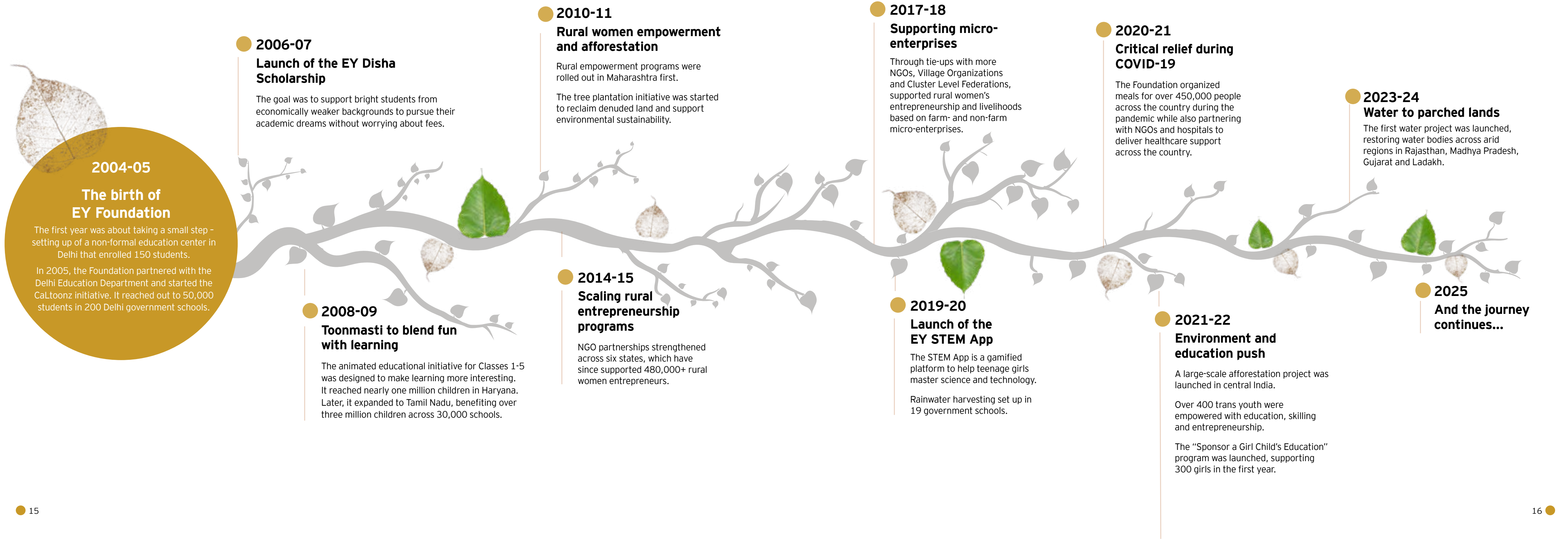
such as water conservation, youth employability and skilling to help more young people participate meaningfully in India's growth story.

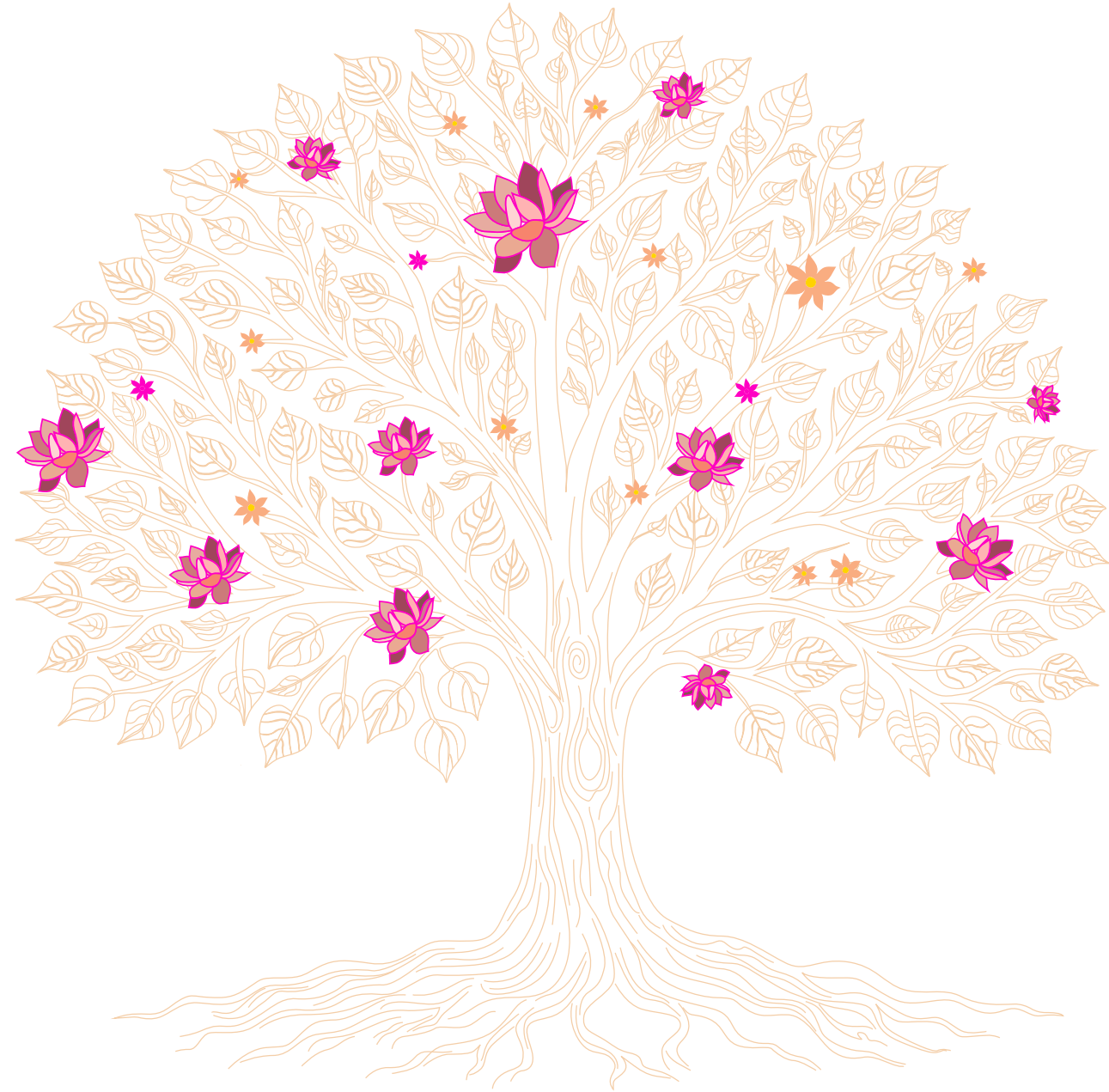
At the same time, people in EY play an important role through EY Ripples, with more than 26,000 volunteers contributing their time, skills and mentorship to help create pathways of opportunity. Their involvement reflects a shared commitment to using knowledge not only to solve business challenges, but also those in climate change, social inequality, digital divide and skill development.

At its heart, the work of EY Foundation has always been about nurturing possibility. Much like the spirit of **Kalpavriksh**, we believe that when opportunity, dignity and hope come together, they have the power to transform lives for generations.

SPREADING BRANCHES

2005 to 2025





EDUCATION

When knowledge blooms

At EY Foundation, we believe that **education is a powerful catalyst** for change. Driven by this conviction, our initiatives are designed to break barriers, ignite curiosity and create equal opportunities. Join us in celebrating the impact of our programs and the remarkable stories of our beneficiaries.



EY Disha Scholarship



EY STEM App



Sponsor a girl child's education

Supported by
EY Foundation



Central Square Foundation



Transgender youth program



Ramakrishna Mission



School improvement program

Information in the education section is as of February 2026.

EY DISHA SCHOLARSHIP



Our flagship program in education was launched in 2007 with the goal to support talented students from economically disadvantaged backgrounds.

The Scholarship supports students from Class 11 through graduation, by providing not just financial assistance but also mentorship, career guidance and communication skills.

Around 1,100 new Scholars are enrolled annually currently.

Over 17 years, the program has empowered more than 10,000 students. EY professionals play an active role in nominating, mentoring and guiding the students in skills like English proficiency and career readiness.

*EY Disha Scholarship is a
springboard to success, shaping
leaders of tomorrow*



1,100
scholarships
annually

10,000+
students
supported in
17 years



EY Disha Scholarship has helped its recipients overcome hurdles in their lives and achieve their potential.

The Scholars have grown to become accomplished and successful adults – over 90 have joined EY – and are also catalyzing change for others. Here are a few success stories from different cohorts.

	ADRITI DUTTA Cohort 2012 Kolkata Organization: Boehringer Ingelheim		ANTU ACHARYA Cohort 2015 Kolkata Organization: Princeton University
	A BHANU KIRAN Cohort 2013 Hyderabad Organization: Deloitte		SAMPURNA MUKHERJEE Cohort 2008 Kolkata Organization: Rubypark Public School
	CHAND GOPAL MONDAL Cohort 2017 Kolkata With the Indian Army		BALA SIHIREESHA Cohort 2011 Hyderabad Organization: ISRO
	PROTYUSHA CHANDRA Cohort 2017 Kolkata Organization: EBIW Info Analysis		SUJAN CHOWDHURY Cohort 2013 Kolkata Organization: ATP Stem Education & Training Services
	DHEERAJ NAIDU Cohort 2012 Mumbai Organization: TATA Elxsi		ROHINIKA SEAL Cohort 2011 Kolkata Organization: S.C.Sen & Associates
			G RAVALI Cohort 2014 Hyderabad Organization: Genpact

	N SNEHA Cohort 2012 Bengaluru Organization: EY GDS		K HARINI Cohort 2018 Chennai Organization: EY		SAYEEDA KOUSER Cohort 2008 Bengaluru Organization: London Stock Exchange
	K DEEPIKA Cohort 2018 Chennai Organization: EY		RAMYA BS Cohort 2016 Bengaluru Organization: Accenture Solutions Pvt Ltd		MOUMITA JOARDAR Cohort 2011 Kolkata Organization: Infosys
		S PRABAKARAN Cohort 2017 Chennai Organization: EY		AKSHAY SHINDE Cohort 2021 Pune Organization: Congo Tech Also Founder and CEO of Tech Amplifier since 2019	
	THASEENA Cohort 2017 Kolkata Organization: Halliburton Development Centre India, LLP		KRTHIKA G Cohort 2016 Bengaluru Organization: KPMG		M Hari Cohort 2015 Chennai Currently a doctor
	R KUMARESAN Cohort 2009 Chennai Organization: Omega Healthcare. Also trustee of Aram Sei Youth Foundation		SHRUTHI D AGADI Cohort 2007 Bengaluru Organization: EPAM Systems		DEEPTANGSHU SARKAR Cohort 2017 Kolkata Currently pursuing MCA

FLIGHT OF ASPIRATIONS

Sujan Chowdhury

Biomedical education and training, UAE

“

While still in the final year of my Bachelor's in Zoology, I was selected from over 2,000 candidates including those with Master's and Doctoral qualifications, for my job. I thank the presentation skills and confidence I developed through the EY Disha Scholarship program.”



Growing up in a small town in West Bengal, Sujan Chowdhury was a bright student with big dreams, but with limited resources. At 16, he often felt overshadowed by his more privileged peers.

The EY Disha Scholarship became a turning point – offering financial support, mentorship, leadership training and holistic development.

Today, Sujan is a Biomedical Sciences trainer and educator in the UAE.

SPONSOR A GIRL CHILD'S EDUCATION

 **1,225+**
EY professionals as sponsors in 2025

 **2,250+**
girls are being supported



●●●
Through a matching contribution program with EY Foundation, EY professionals fund the education costs of girls from financially weaker families, supporting students from Kindergarten to Class 12. The program, which started in 2022, aims to bridge the gender gap in school education. The initiative works with various schools including Rishi Valmiki Eco School (Mumbai) and Udbhav School (Hyderabad) to create meaningful impact.

Testimony of a transformed future ●●●

DETERMINED TO WIN

Yamini

Student of Class 9,
Rishi Valmiki Eco School

“
Football is not just a game to me; it is a passion that runs through my veins. I yearn to be a footballer, to guide my team to triumph.”

Yamini faced numerous challenges as her family's income, which came from her mother, a domestic helper, and her father, a seasonal photographer was not enough to support her dreams.



THE EY STEM APP

24
states

4
Union Territories

132,000+
girl students

1,200+
schools



The gamified EY STEM App is designed to ignite curiosity and inspire girls aged 13-18 to explore the world of STEM as a career.

Through engaging activities in AI, blockchain and design thinking, the global knowledge app nurtures essential skills like problem-solving. It is based on OECD 21st Century Skills framework, UNDP Sustainable Development Goals and is aligned to NEP 2020.

Testimony of a transformed future ●●●

NEW POSSIBILITIES

Sadaf Iqbal

Student of Class 12
Delina, Baramulla, J&K

“

Before I started using the EY STEM App, I feared Science and Maths. Now, I have found curiosity, confidence and courage through the app.”

The engaging sessions of the EY STEM App allayed Sadaf's fears and doubts and fueled her passion. She earned more than 50,000 points and gained recognition among her peers. Armed with fresh confidence, she chose to study Science and Information Technology in Class 11 and hopes to build a career in STEM.



Association with UTTAR PRADESH GOVERNMENT AND CENTRAL SQUARE FOUNDATION

📖 **560,000+**
students to
benefit

📖 **6**
districts
in UP



In 2022, the EY Foundation joined the Central Square Foundation's initiative with the Uttar Pradesh Education Department that focuses on large-scale reforms to improve foundational literacy and numeracy (FLN) in primary schools.

Direct interventions started in six districts had an impact on the educational outcomes of 560,000 students.



TRANSGENDER YOUTH PROGRAM

📖 **400+ youth**
benefited



Launched in 2022, our Transgender youth program has supported LGBTQ+ youth through education and skills training, celebrating diversity while enabling financial growth. The program ran in four cities: Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Pune.





Association with RAMAKRISHNA MISSION

 **100,000+**
people supported through
multiple initiatives

 **58,000**
people received
healthcare services



Ramakrishna Mission's institutions are rooted in the teachings of Swami Vivekananda. Collaborating with nine RKM Institutions, the Foundation extends grants to support children and youth for training in healthcare, industrial courses and more.

The EY Foundation also worked with the Vivek Sanjivani initiative in Varanasi to extend healthcare services across five districts in Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand.

The Foundation also supports the Awakening Citizen Program, which is conducted in 350 schools to develop a deeper awareness of roles and responsibilities.



SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

 **25**
schools modernized

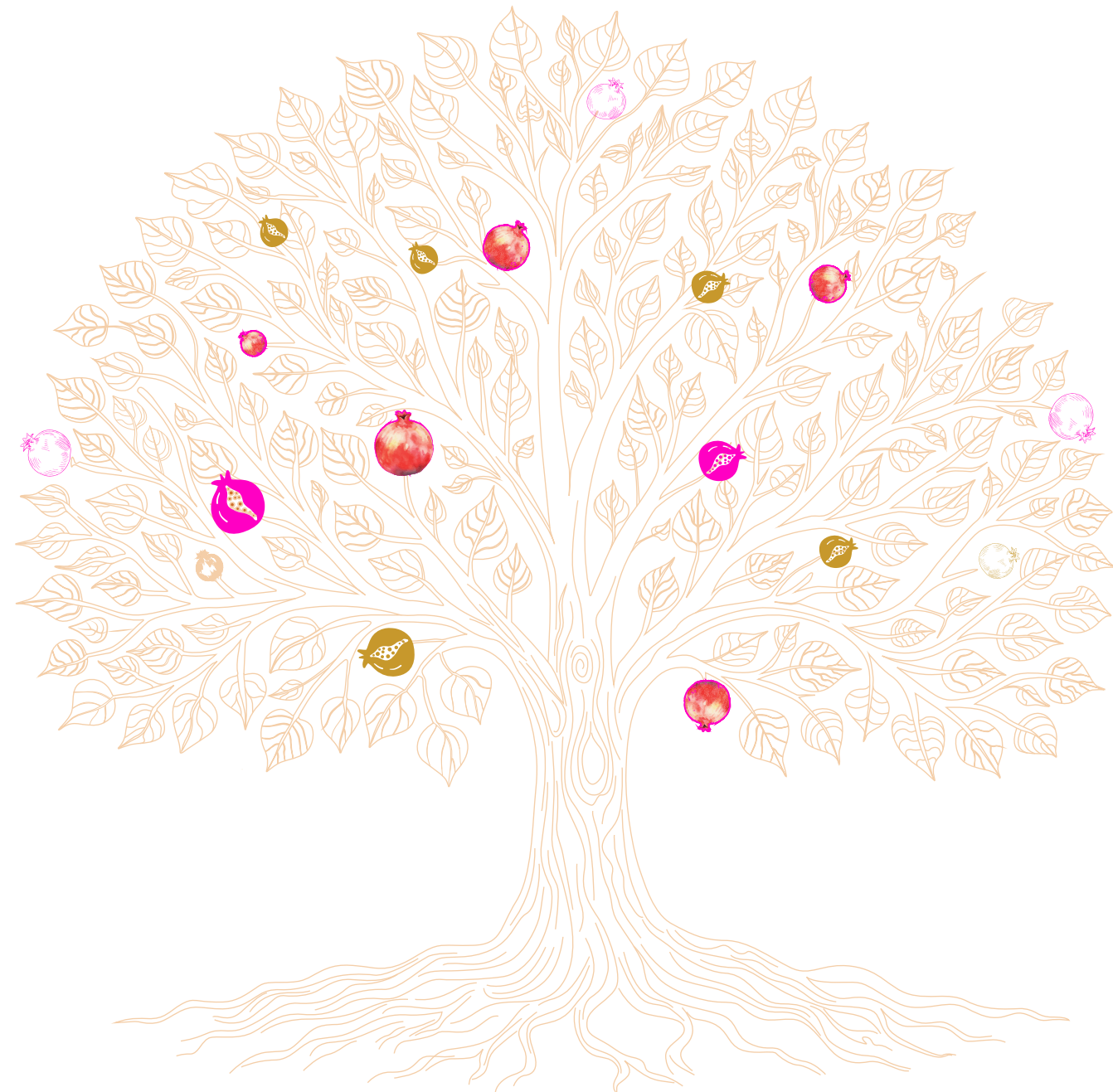
 **20,000+**
students impacted



Janet Truncale, EY Global Chair and CEO at
PM Shri Kendriya Vidyalaya, New Delhi



The program was launched in 2022 to support government and charity-aided schools. With smart classrooms, improved sanitation, and safe drinking water, the program has created a more enriching space for students to learn and grow. The initiative also equipped students with essential skills for holistic development through IT and STEM labs and Discovery Hubs.



ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Fruits of fulfilled dreams



At EY Foundation, we believe women bring communities together and excel as entrepreneurs if given the opportunity.

The Foundation's rural women entrepreneurship programs are designed to help women in villages start their own businesses and generate income. The programs have a multiplier effect - the women entrepreneurs not only promote social development but also serve as role models for other women in the community.



Sumitra Kisku Murmu, of Bankura, West Bengal, is a woman micro entrepreneur and a Pashu Sakhi

ENTREPRENEURSHIP INITIATIVE



480,000

women supported in the last eight years across **2,000** villages in nine states



40,000+

Community-based organizations (CBOs) nurtured



150,000+

women earn more than INR100,000



The Foundation partners with NGOs, who identify individuals and Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and the suitable skill development and capacity building programs.

The goal is to help women entrepreneurs on their journey to earn over INR100,000 annual income. In the past eight years, nearly half a million women entrepreneurs have spread their wings through this initiative.





PLANTING CONFIDENCE MAMTA DEVI

Farmer, Bulandshahr, Uttar Pradesh

In 2018, Mamta Devi, a farmer and mother of three, joined an SHG supported by an NGO partner of EY Foundation. Using the agricultural and other skills she gained in advanced vegetable cultivation, Mamta Devi leased land to start her own farming venture. By 2022, her annual income had soared from INR30,000 to INR160,000, transforming her family's future.

“

Through hard work and the knowledge that I gained, I have been able to invest in my children's future and save for our family.



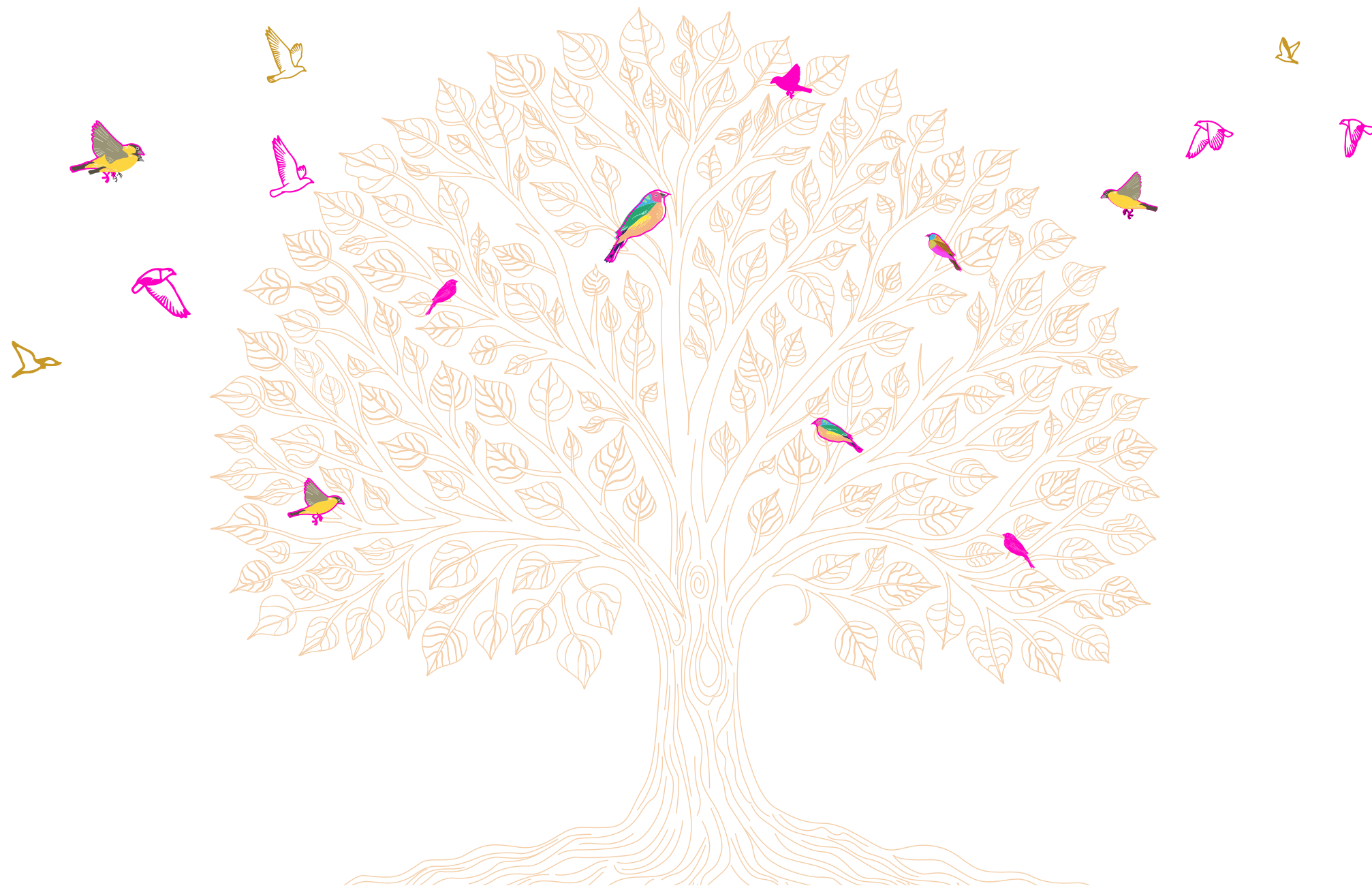
CULTIVATING POWER OF BELIEF DALIMBA HARIJAN

Farmer, Benasur, Odisha

Dalimba Harijan, a 46-year-old farmer and mother of four, joined a Self-Help Groups (SHGs) supported by Harsha Trust, an NGO partner of EY Foundation. After learning about different income generation activities and bank linkages, she grows three crops annually and raises cattle and poultry. Her husband does not have to migrate for work and their daughters are set to become the first college graduates in the family.

“

When, we, the women came together as SHG members, we got access to loans and diversified our income sources. As a group, we secured an INR500,000 loan from Mission Shakti for cultivation.



ENVIRONMENT

Embracing the planet

Our endeavor to support holistic development includes environmental initiatives in biodiversity, sustainable resource use and community ownership.

At the heart of EY Foundation's initiatives lies a commitment to water conservation and environmental restoration.

From rainwater harvesting systems in schools to large-scale afforestation drives, these efforts empower communities to cultivate a sense of accountability of living in coexistence with nature.





WATER CONSERVATION



EY Foundation has worked with NGOs in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, and Ladakh to construct water harvesting structures and promote efficient water usage, with active participation of local communities. The initiatives include building 69 major water harvesting structures such as check dams, tanks and ponds to recharge groundwater and implementing water management strategies.



AFFORESTATION



Our community-led afforestation initiative in central India aims to restore 500 hectares of degraded community land to revitalize the ecosystem and promote livelihoods.



PROTECTING LIVELIHOODS

Gigabhai Rajabhai Bhammar

Farmer, Bhavnagar, Gujarat

“

The farm pond has transformed my farming practices. Better water availability has given a boost to cropping intensity and higher yields. This has given me the confidence to secure my family's future.”



In Mota Ghana, a village in Gujarat's Bhavnagar district, Gigabhai Rajabhai Bhammar was struggling with water scarcity that hindered his land's productivity.

In 2023, under the Project Araghya, supported by the EY Foundation, a pond was built on his farm, leading to a rise in groundwater levels, improving soil fertility and augmenting his income.

Today, the once-dry land flourishes, inspiring not just Gigabhai but also other farmers to adopt sustainable agricultural practices.

SPRING OF HOPE

Kantu Katija

Farmer, Jhabua, Madhya Pradesh

“

The solar-powered lift irrigation system ensures round-the-clock water access, boosting crop diversity and tripling my income. Now, I can support my children's education and plan for the future.”



In Jhabua, Madhya Pradesh, farmers were facing water shortage for crops and livestock.

With the solar-based lift irrigation system set up by EY Foundation, Kantu Katija and other farmers now have reliable water access.

This has improved their livelihoods, marking a significant step towards prosperity.

EY Ripples

*Driving change through
our people*



Ambition to positively impact
1 billion lives by 2030

EY Ripples is our global corporate responsibility program, designed to create long-term social value by having a positive impact on our communities and our planet.

Through the program, we join hands with clients and like-minded organizations to build a vibrant ecosystem of changemakers intent on driving progress towards the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

**Volunteering
across**

Supporting
the next
generation
workforce

Working with
impact
entrepreneurs

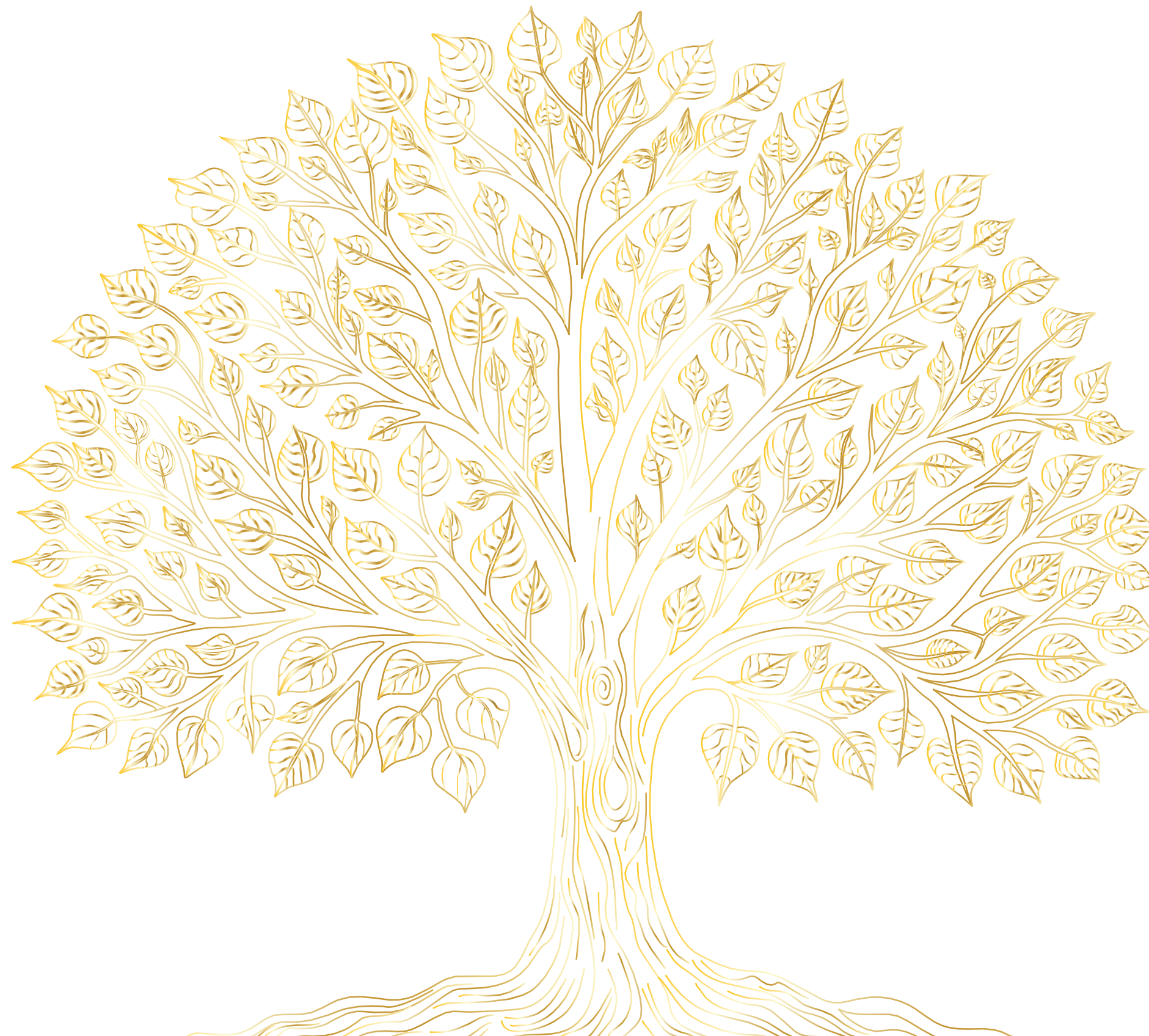
Environmental
protection



EY Foundation

Creating a better future

For two decades,
the EY Foundation has been a catalyst of
change in education, women's empowerment
and environmental sustainability.



Steadfast in our commitment to social responsibility as corporate citizens, we seek to strengthen initiatives into areas where long-term impact is needed.

Through purposeful action, our resolve only deepens to shape a future where inclusivity and opportunity are accessible to all.



Acknowledgements

Founding members and mentors
(Past and Present)

Rajiv Memani
Sridhar Iyer
Sujatha Balachander
Ambrish Jhamb
Anil Gupta
Arti Dua
Arvind Sethi
Ashish Basil
Hiresh Wadhwani
Kapil Bagadia
Late Pankaj Dhandharia
R Balachander
Raju Lal
Sandeep Kohli
Sonu Iyer
Sunil Bajaj

EY Foundation Team
(Past and present)

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Anupriya J Biswal	Prachi S Nadgir
Anvesh Thirukovalluru	Pushker Prasad
Ashish Bansal	Radhika Khemka
Ashish Srivastava	Raja Chakraborti
Atul Singh	Rina Sinha
Bhim Thapa	Ritu Raina
Danish Hussain	Santosh Pathak
Deepak Singhania	Seema R Waghray
Dhanalakshmi S	Shikha Dubey
Esha Dani	Shyamrag B Nambiar
Gauri Singhal	Soma Roy
Indu Dhandharia	Sonali R Jain
Janson Varghese	Souvik Kundu
Kamakshi Sharma	Subham Acharyya
Krishna Veni	Sudesh K Singh
Mahalakshmi Kandukuri	Sudhir Kumar
Manisha R Magar	Sujata G Jha
Meenakshi Gupta	Swati Mediratta
Mrinalika Chauhan	Yadala Bharathi

