

Challenging the status quo



Our journey from 'Ideas to Impact' began in 1988. It has gathered significant momentum over the past few years, touching lives across 33 locations in 13 states through diverse initiatives.

– Ashwin Saxena, CEO, JSW Foundation



The riskiest thing we can do is just maintain the status quo.

– Bob Iger, CEO, The Walt Disney Company

Dear Stakeholders,

Ideas fuel change and progress, holding the potential to transform lives and the world itself. Ideas can motivate one to try out the seemingly impossible, can overcome thought barriers, and interests and sometimes, even justify interests at a deeper level. Ideas have the power to change the world by challenging the status quo! Yet, for these ideas to create lasting, sustainable impact, innovation, collaboration, strong systems, processes and leadership play crucial roles. We have innovated and may have even failed at times, but have never let the risk-taking take a backseat, taking challenges head-on.

Our journey from 'Ideas to Impact' began in 1988 and gathered significant momentum over the past few years, touching lives across 33 locations in 13 states through diverse initiatives. Our Annual Report only scratches the surface of our ongoing efforts. Our programs evolve with communities' needs and aspirations, making this Report merely a milestone, showcasing the direction taken, partnerships forged, communities empowered, and the budding impact of our transformative ideas.

At the 10th JSW TOI Earth Care Awards, we introduced Earth Exponential (earthexponential.org), a platform uniting climate solutions. It fosters collaboration, exchange of ideas, and thought-leading knowledge sharing among grassroots implementers, knowledge institutions, and donors. The platform is active, sharing resources and sparking initial collaborations between

donors and implementers. McArthur Foundation is supporting this initiative funded and co-created by us and the India Climate Collaborative.

The social sector demands diverse technical skills to address critical issues. JSW Foundation Fellowship identifies and nurtures passionate youth as social changemakers. It encourages Fellows to support each other, delve into rural India's challenges, and implement solutions they're passionate about. This year, 12 Fellows worked on various projects across our locations.

India's pioneering Skill Impact Bond, 15 months into its journey, has enrolled 18,000+ young Indians from 18 states and Union Territories. Developed under the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, this initiative focuses on job placement and retention through outcome-driven strategies.

We collaborated with Social Alpha and H&M Foundation for the WasteTech Venture Growth and Scale Up Program to scale sustainable waste management solutions in Dolvi, Maharashtra and Vijayanagar, Karnataka, enhancing solid waste management in nearby villages.

In collaboration with Hindustan Unilever Limited, we've established 10 Suvidha Centres targeting low-income urban areas in Mumbai. They offer essential sanitation services such as safe toilets, filtered drinking water, showers, and laundry under one roof.

As part of the Government of India's Light House Initiative, 75 model Open

Defecation Free (ODF) blocks will serve as learning labs. JSW Foundation plans to elevate 45 villages across eight Gram Panchayats to ODF++ status, ensuring 56,000+ households have access to individual or community toilets along with effective waste management practices.

Art and culture shape our heritage, and JSW Foundation has long championed the preservation of cultural heritage. This year, we restored Mumbai's historic David Sassoon Library and Reading Room, part of the city's Victorian Gothic and Art Deco ensembles, and a UNESCO World Heritage Site, returning it to its original splendour.

Our initiative, Project Sakhi, intertwines plastic waste management with women's livelihoods. This led to the establishment of a handloom school, drawing more women into this endeavour. Now, Hampi Art Labs aims to foster collaboration between global and local artists, nurturing creativity.

This Report exemplifies our commitment to turning innovative ideas into lasting change. Year after year, across our programs, we aim to drive impactful change and transform lives at scale.

Stay tuned for our next edition, where we'll unveil a high-impact, large-scale program aimed at empowering women's livelihoods.

Happy reading!

Ashwini Saxena
CEO, JSW Foundation