

May 2026 Edition #02

NEWSLETTER

FS INSIGHT



This edition is dedicated to the silent transformations changing lives every day — lighting forgotten village pathways, reviving soil through sustainable farming, and restoring dignity for waste workers through access, opportunity, and support. These are stories of hope, resilience, and the extraordinary impact of small actions.

A night scene in a village. A tall street light on the right casts a bright glow, illuminating a dirt path. Several people, including children, are visible. A woman in a pink shirt stands in the center, holding a child. Other people are in the background, some near a building. The scene is dark, with the light from the street lamp creating a strong contrast and a lens flare effect.

THIS EDITION IS DEDICATED TO.....

This edition of our newsletter is dedicated to the people and communities whose lives are being transformed through meaningful support, innovation, and collective action. Across different regions and themes, small but impactful interventions are helping individuals move toward safer, healthier, and more dignified lives.

In this edition, we highlight stories of:

- Bringing light to dark village pathways near forest regions through street light installations, improving safety, confidence, and daily life.
- Supporting rural communities with sustainable agriculture practices, soil conservation, composting, and climate-resilient farming approaches.
- Connecting waste workers and sanitation workers with government welfare schemes, social security benefits, and livelihood opportunities.

Together, these stories reflect resilience, hope, and the belief that even small interventions can create meaningful and lasting change in people's lives.



Together, Creating Change: Partner Testimonials



SATYAJEET TEWARY
ASSISTANT VICE PRESIDENT- HEAD CSR
AAVAS FINANCIERS LIMITED

On behalf of Aavas Financiers Limited, we extend our heartfelt congratulations to FINISH Society and its dedicated team for the remarkable work and impact they are generating for the socio-economic advancement of communities residing at the bottom of the pyramid. Aavas Financiers Limited, in partnership with FINISH Society, has initiated an innovative project titled "Transforming Kalakh into a climate resilient and inclusive model village." This project is unique as it seeks to foster socio-economic development in rural areas by involving key stakeholders such as the gram panchayat, government departments, local community level institutions and the communities. The preliminary outcomes of the project have instilled in us a strong confidence in our ability to showcase a development model that is replicable, scalable, and sustainable. We anticipate a continued successful collaboration and the opportunity to learn from each other's experiences.

Working with FINISH Society in Mainpat Hill Station of Sarguja district has been a valuable experience. Waste management in hilly and remote regions comes with many practical challenges, especially around waste collection, transportation, and changing community behaviour towards segregation and cleanliness. Despite these challenges, the team has shown strong commitment and has worked closely with local communities to create practical and sustainable solutions. Their efforts in behaviour change communication, awareness generation, and improving waste management systems have helped build gradual positive change at the grassroots level. We appreciate their sincere approach, dedication, and focus on creating long-term community impact, and we are glad to be associated with an organization working towards sustainable development in the region.



ABHISHEK ANAND
REGIONAL LEAD CSR
LIC HOUSING FINANCE LTD.

LIGHTING LIVES, CHANGING FUTURES



For the progress of any community, it is important to sit with people and work on small, everyday challenges. How a simple effort can transform lives can be clearly seen through the street light installation project implemented with the support of Signify Lighting Innovation in the villages surrounding the Valmiki Tiger Reserve, located near the Nepal border in West Champaran district of Bihar. Street lighting may seem like a very basic intervention, but how a single light can change lives is something we can truly understand through these two stories.

In a small village near the forest fringe, evenings once brought a sense of fear and restriction for Ganga and Yamuna. As the sun set, life in their village would come to a halt. Families would shut their doors early, and the narrow pathways would disappear into complete darkness.

Coming from a financially weak household, the sisters lived in a small two-room house where only one room had electricity. That single bulb had to serve multiple purposes—cooking, studying, and daily chores—all in one confined space. Stepping outside after dusk was almost unthinkable.

Often, sudden shouts would echo through the village—warnings that a wild animal had entered nearby. Living so close to the forest made such incidents common, and for young girls like Ganga and Yamuna, it was terrifying.

While a few street lights existed, they were mostly installed near shops or the houses of influential families. Their settlement, like many others without social or economic influence, remained neglected—especially

the areas near orchards and open land where animals frequently wandered.

Things began to change when teams started identifying high-risk and underserved areas. For the first time, their locality was recognized. The day street lights were installed in their lane marked a turning point.

“When the light first came on outside our house, our fear disappeared,” Ganga recalls. Their mother often says that animals tend to avoid well-lit areas, bringing a sense of reassurance to the family.

Ganga also shares how her friend from the nearby Musahar settlement experienced a similar transformation. In that community, where even a single bulb inside homes was a luxury, the installation of street lights brought unexpected change.

“Now they study and even play under those lights at night,” she says with a smile.

For Ganga and Yamuna, light did more than illuminate their surroundings—it gave them confidence, freedom, and a childhood no longer confined by fear.

In the Haranatan range, the Taruanwa Musahar community has long relied on traditional crafts for survival. Families here are skilled in making brooms and bamboo baskets—products that see seasonal demand, especially during weddings and festivals. Alongside this, broom-making remains a steady source of livelihood throughout the year.

However, one major challenge limited their growth: time. Their work was entirely dependent on daylight. When bulk orders arrived during peak seasons, completing them on time became a struggle.

As evening approached, work would slow down and eventually stop—not just due to fatigue, but because working in darkness was both difficult and unsafe. Inside their small huts, a single dim bulb often struggled to provide enough light for detailed handwork. Managing large orders in such conditions was nearly impossible. This limitation directly impacted their income, preventing them from accepting more work even when opportunities were available.

The installation of street lights brought a quiet yet powerful transformation. With well-lit surroundings, the community gained extra working hours after sunset. What was once lost time turned into productive time.

Now, families come together in the evenings, sitting under the glow of street lights, continuing their craft work safely and comfortably. The fear of darkness has reduced, and so has the hesitation to step outside at night.

This extended work time has allowed them to accept more orders and complete them efficiently. As a result, their income has improved, and so has their confidence. For the Musahar community, these lights are not just about visibility—they represent opportunity, dignity, and the ability to shape a better future.

“A GLOWING STREETLIGHT IN A VILLAGE BRINGS MORE THAN LIGHT — IT DELIVERS SAFETY, CONFIDENCE, AND HOPE TO EVERY HOME.”

Today, when you see a street light glowing in the evening, your perspective might change. In urban areas, a light at the corner of a street may simply feel like a basic necessity—something we rarely think about. Yet even there, it provides a sense of safety and comfort.

Now imagine its value in villages located near dense forests. Here, a single light does much more—it reduces fear, enhances safety, supports livelihoods, and enables children to study after dark. It transforms not just spaces, but lives.

In these villages near Valmiki Tiger Reserve, street lights have become symbols of change. They are helping communities move from fear to confidence, from limitation to opportunity.

Sometimes, all it takes is a little light to change everything.



A TIMELY STEP: HOW SOHIT AND HIS FAMILY'S LIFE BEGAN TO CHANGE



In the narrow lanes of Samaypur Badli in North-West Delhi lives Sohit—one among countless sanitation workers whose hard work keeps the city clean, yet whose own lives often remain unseen. A father of four, two daughters and two sons, each day for Sohit is not just about earning a living, but about surviving with dignity. Sohit primarily works as a waste picker. Poverty leaves him with little choice but to take up any small job he can find. Some days he works in a plastic recycling unit, turning discarded plastic into reusable granules. Other days, he spends hours walking through city streets collecting waste. His wife supports the family by working as a domestic helper in nearby homes. With irregular income, unstable work, and little social security, uncertainty has long been their everyday reality.

Yet despite these hardships, one dream has always remained alive in their hearts—to give their children a better future through education and stability.

A Step Toward Change

Under the UTTHAAN program, supported by UNDP India and The Coca-Cola Company, FINISH Society has been working closely with sanitation workers and their families across Delhi and the NCR.

The goal is not just to spread awareness, but to ensure that the right support reaches the right people at the right time—connecting them to government welfare schemes, healthcare services, and social protection systems.

**"WE NEVER IMAGINED LIFE WOULD CHANGE SO QUICKLY. WE JUST NEEDED THE RIGHT INFORMATION AND THE RIGHT SUPPORT."
SAYS SOHIT.**

On January 23, the FINISH Society team conducted a survey with Sohit and his family. During the interaction, it became clear that while the willingness to work hard was never lacking, access to information and government benefits was. The very same day, the team helped connect him to the Government of India's NAMASTE helpline, designed to support sanitation workers in accessing their rights and entitlements.

A Turnaround in 24 Hours

Sometimes, change doesn't take years—it just takes one timely intervention.

On January 24, just a day after the survey, Sohit received an offer through the Namaste initiative to join the Municipal Corporation of Delhi as a permanent sanitation worker. It was more than just a job—it was the beginning of stability.

- **With this new role came:**
- **A regular and improved salary**
- **Employee benefits**
- **Social security coverage**
- **Dignity and formal recognition**

For years, these had been distant hopes. Now, they were becoming reality.

A Family's Renewed Hope

When Sohit shared the news with his wife, her eyes reflected both relief and quiet joy. The fear of their children having to drop out of school began to fade. School fees, books, uniforms—these were no longer impossible burdens.

One Story, Many Lessons

Sohit's journey reminds us that:

- Hard work is not the problem—lack of access and information often is.
- Government schemes truly matter only when they reach people on the ground.
- A timely step can transform the future of an entire family.

The efforts of FINISH Society and its partners show that real change happens when people are seen, heard, and supported with dignity. A human-centered approach—where every individual is valued—not only uplifts one person but strengthens entire communities.

Today, Sohit is not just a sanitation worker. He is a symbol of hope for his children, a pillar of support for his wife, and an example for many others. His story reminds us that when the right hands open the right doors at the right time, destiny often follows



USHERING IN CHANGE: ONE KNOCK AT A TIME



“When one frontline worker decided that no Safai Mitra would be left behind...”

Sometimes transformation does not begin with big announcements — it begins with a simple knock on a door. Under the UTTHAAN initiative, supported by UNDP India and The Coca-Cola Foundation, FINISH Society is working across New Delhi and NCR to connect Safai Mitras (waste workers) and their families with essential government welfare, health, and social security schemes.

One of the strongest pillars of this effort is Vandana Yeriya, a dedicated ASHA worker who became a bridge between the system and the community.

When we began implementing the UTTHAAN project, we quickly realized that while government schemes existed, access remained a challenge. Many Safai Mitra families were unaware of their entitlements. Some lacked documentation. Others felt the process was too complicated to even attempt. The gap was not in policy — it was in reach.

That is where Vandana stepped in.

She did not approach this as just another assignment. She approached it as a responsibility toward the community she serves every day. Going door-to-door in her area, she identified vulnerable Safai Mitra families who were excluded from social protection schemes. She listened to their concerns, understood their challenges, and patiently explained how these schemes could secure their future. She simplified complex processes — explaining health insurance benefits, pension schemes, and other welfare entitlements in language that families could easily understand. More importantly, she did not stop at awareness. She ensured action.

Vandana helped families gather necessary documents, supported them in filling out forms, and mobilized them to attend health and linkage camps organized under the project. During camps, she played an active facilitation role — encouraging registrations, coordinating with officials, and ensuring eligible beneficiaries were successfully linked. Through these efforts, multiple successful scheme linkages were facilitated. Families who once believed that “government benefits are not meant for people like us” began to feel included in the system. One Safai Mitra’s spouse shared during a camp: “For the first time, we feel someone is working for us.” That moment captured the true spirit of UTTHAAN. Vandana’s contribution has not only benefited families materially but has also strengthened trust within the community. Her credibility and recognition have grown significantly. Today, Safai Mitras see her not just as an ASHA worker, but as an advocate for their rights and dignity.

For FINISH Society, this story reinforces a critical lesson: sustainable impact happens when local leaders are empowered. Schemes and policies become meaningful only when frontline workers like Vandana ensure they reach the last mile. Her journey reflects the larger vision of UTTHAAN — a movement toward dignity, inclusion, and social security for waste workers who tirelessly keep our cities clean, yet often remain invisible within formal systems.

This is not just Vandana’s story. It is a story of restored trust. Of access replacing exclusion. Of dignity replacing neglect.

And above all, it is a reminder that real change happens when someone stands up and says: “You are not alone. We are with you.”

FINISH SOCIETY UNDER ‘AGRIVATION’ :

Advancing Soil Health, Supporting Farmers, and Enabling Sustainable Agriculture



Agrivation by FINISH Society is a circular economy-driven initiative transforming organic and wet waste into sustainable value for communities, agriculture, and the environment. By extending the lifecycle of waste through scientific composting and resource recovery, we are creating regenerative systems that improve soil health, reduce emissions, strengthen rural livelihoods, and advance climate-resilient, sustainable development at scale. We bring strong expertise in waste management, particularly decentralized wet waste management systems across rural and urban communities. Building on this experience, the organization is now expanding its work at the intersection of waste management, soil health, and sustainable agriculture through its emerging initiative, “Agrivation.”

In many rural areas, farmers traditionally manage agricultural and organic waste—such as cattle dung, crop residue, dry leaves, and household biodegradable waste—through open dumping or conventional heap composting methods that often take 1–2 years to convert into usable manure. At the same time, crop residue burning and the increasing dependence on chemical fertilizers continue to impact soil fertility, soil carbon, and long-term agricultural sustainability. We see this challenge as an opportunity for circular and climate-resilient solutions. By working directly with farmers and communities, the organization is promoting scientific composting methods using bio-decomposers and aerobic composting beds, enabling the same organic waste to be converted into high-quality organic compost within just 30–40 days. This approach not only supports effective wet waste management but also creates valuable organic inputs for agriculture, improving soil health and reducing input costs for farmers.

The model integrates cattle dung, agricultural residue, and other biodegradable waste streams into decentralized composting systems that are practical, scalable, and community-driven. Through this convergence approach, waste becomes a resource, supporting both environmental sustainability and farmer livelihoods. Over the years, FINISH Society has collaborated with multiple CSR and institutional partners—including DCM Shriram Foundation, LIC HFL, HCL, and others—to promote soil health improvement, scientific composting, farmer awareness, and decentralized waste management solutions across different geographies. These interventions have demonstrated that organic waste management can simultaneously address rural sanitation and waste challenges while creating economic and agricultural benefits for farming communities.

“TURN WET WASTE INTO LIVING SOIL, WHERE EVERY COMPOST PIT BECOMES A STEP TOWARD HEALTHIER FARMS, CLEANER VILLAGES, SAFER ENVIRONMENTS, AND A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE FOR GENERATIONS.”

Going forward, FINISH Society aims to position Agrivation as a scalable platform for regenerative and climate-resilient agriculture. With its strong grassroots presence, technical understanding of wet waste systems, and experience in community mobilization, the organization is well placed to support partners, CSR institutions, and development agencies working in the areas of soil health, climate action, sustainable agriculture, and circular economy models. Agrivation represents not just a program, but a future-ready opportunity where agriculture and innovation come together to create healthier soils, stronger rural livelihoods, and sustainable waste management ecosystems.

FROM WET WASTE TO HEALTHY SOIL

A STEP TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

Manage Wet Waste • Improve Soil Health • Ensure Environmental Safety

OUR APPROACH: 8 SIMPLE STEPS

1

WET WASTE GENERATION



- Sources: Household wet waste, cattle dung, kitchen waste, crop residue, garden waste, etc.
- Segregation at source for efficient management

2

COLLECTION & TRANSPORTATION



- Door-to-door or community level collection
- Safe and hygienic transportation to composting site

3

PREPARATION AT COMPOSTING SITE



- Sorting and removing non-biodegradable materials
- Shredding large waste for better decomposition
- Mixing cattle dung and crop residue for balanced carbon and nutrients

4

SETTING UP AEROBIC COMPOSTING BEDS



- Use of aerobic beds / windrow method
- Addition of bio-decomposer for faster decomposition
- Proper layering, moisture and aeration

5

RAPID COMPOSTING PROCESS



30-40 DAYS

- Regular turning and monitoring
- Temperature and moisture management ensures faster decomposition
- Compost ready in 30-40 days

6

QUALITY CHECK & SCREENING



- Screening to remove unwanted particles
- Compost quality testing for nutrients
- Ensures safe, high-quality, nutrient-rich compost

7

APPLICATION TO SOIL & CROPS



- Use of organic compost in fields, kitchen gardens and plantations
- Improves soil structure, water holding capacity and fertility
- Reduces dependence on chemical fertilizers

8

HEALTHY SOIL, HEALTHY FUTURE



- Improves soil health and organic carbon
- Reduces open dumping and burning
- Lowers greenhouse gas emissions
- Ensures environmental safety and sustainable agriculture

OUTCOMES: A WIN-WIN FOR ALL



FOR FARMERS

- Low-cost, high-quality organic manure
- Improved soil productivity and crop yield
- Reduced input cost and better farm income



FOR COMMUNITY

- Clean and hygienic surroundings
- Effective wet waste management
- Community participation and local employment



FOR ENVIRONMENT

- Reduced pollution and open dumping
- Lower GHG emissions and carbon footprint
- Conservation of natural resources



FOR FUTURE

- Climate-resilient and sustainable agriculture
- Healthy soil, healthy food, healthy planet
- Building a circular and regenerative future



WASTE TODAY, RESOURCE TOMORROW

TOGETHER FOR SOIL HEALTH, FARMER WEALTH & PLANET SAFETY



FROM SOCIAL MEDIA

An impactful glimpse from the field

Under the Parivesh Project, implemented in collaboration with LIC Housing Finance Limited, a heartwarming moment unfolded during door-to-door waste collection. A family happily handed over their waste with a smile, expressing their appreciation for the service. What stood out even more was the community's proactive response—residents came forward requesting daily waste collection, reflecting growing trust, acceptance, and active participation in the initiative.

<https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7447874197168558081>



Women Emerging as the Drivers of Change



Under the "Transforming Kalakh into a Model Village" project, implemented with the financial support of Aavas Financiers Ltd and the technical guidance of FINISH Society, a Women's Committee has been formed in Kalakh village near Jaipur, Rajasthan.

During the meeting, upcoming activities were shared, along with meaningful discussions on strengthening Self-Help Groups (SHGs), promoting women's livelihoods, developing micro-enterprises, and building strong market linkages.

<https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7426915565044375552>

OUR IMPACT

TRANSFORMING COMMUNITIES • PROTECTING ENVIRONMENT • BUILDING A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE



10,000,000+

No. of people reached with awareness on safe WASH behaviour



250,000+

No. of children impacted through WASH in School programmes



22,000 Tons+

Average per year Solid Waste managed



775 kWp+

solar panels, 4,500 solar lights, and 30,000 LEDs powering villages, schools, hospitals, and forest communities.



3,600 Tons+

CO₂ equivalent GHGs emissions saved per year



HEALTHIER COMMUNITIES



IMPROVED SANITATION & HYGIENE



EFFECTIVE WASTE MANAGEMENT



RENEWABLE ENERGY FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



CLIMATE ACTION FOR A BETTER TOMORROW

Empowering People. Protecting Nature. Enriching Lives.



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