

# The Influencer Bulletin

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**Your support to the Influencers journey is ensuring women and girls freedom from violence and discrimination, access to legal justice, grassroots leadership, rights and entitlements and freedom from economic dependence. In this issue we bring to you updates from our coalition partner AALI's extensive work towards women's access to justice. Further, we provide a glimpse of the work done by our partner Shaheen in raising their voice against the Hathras case. Also join us in celebrating the EdelGive Foundation's digital campaign *Udyam Stree* that aims to empower women entrepreneurs. We also reflect upon the work and journey of our grassroots coalition partners KMVS, Jan Sahas and Milaan.**

## We have a New Member!

We are happy to share that Rati Forbes, director of the Forbes Marshall Group and head of Forbes Foundation has joined the EdelGive's Influencers collective. Rati has been recognized for her social initiatives both within the company and in the wider world. She has chaired the Confederation of Indian Industry's Western Region Cell for Social Development, whose main objective is to sensitize corporate entities to their social responsibilities. She also serves on the Boards of several foundations and non-profits across India.



## Access to Justice

A recently published report titled "Barriers in Accessing Justice" by our NGO partner the **Association for Advocacy and Legal Initiatives** (AALI) and Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative has highlighted astonishing facts through case studies of survivors of sexual assault across seven districts in Uttar Pradesh. The findings of the report describe the following challenges of the survivors-

- Police delayed and/or refused to register an First Information Report (FIR) on receipt of complaints of sexual assault
- Women police officers did not record the first information of an offence of sexual assault
- Police disbelieve and discriminate against sexual assault survivors
- Dalit survivors of sexual violence face discrimination on the basis of caste in addition to gender
- Police routinely pressure complainants to settle or compromise with the alleged accused
- Survivors were not aware of the immediate remedies to challenge the police failure to register their complaints as FIRs, leading to delay in accessing remedy
- Survivors and caseworkers did not know about the provisions of Section 166A(c) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and that it could be invoked to hold police accountable
- Non-registration of the FIR leading to harassment and distrust; causing distress and trauma amongst survivors

The report underscores the impact of police delay/refusal to register FIRs, in the first instance, on survivors; especially the difficulties experienced in accessing legal remedies. Read the full report [here](#)



## Grassroots Leadership

We have witnessed, time and again, forms of sexual violence based on gender and caste-based hierarchies. The Hathras gangrape case is another reminder that the everyday life of a Dalit woman is juxtaposed between issues of caste, gender and violence. Seeking justice in the despicable Hathras gangrape case and murder incident, our NGO partner **Shaheen** along with several volunteers, conducted a protest march at Moghalpura in Hyderabad condemning this dehumanizing episode

## Voices from the Grassroots

**Nexus for Good** recently featured our partner **Kutch Mahila Vikas Sangathan's** (KMVS) successful efforts towards developing an elected women representatives' forum established to train the members to have a gendered approach towards the developmental issues of their respective villages. One such representative is Kankuben Vankar, the Sarpanch of Kukma village in Bhuj, Gujarat who has been an active member in the forum. Overcoming the age-old patriarchal structures and deep-seated bias against woman in power Kankuben initiated a one of a kind way to encourage girl child education in Kukma village by announcing that street names in the village would be named after the girls who excel at their academics. Read more about this story [here](#).



## Breaking the Convention



With a vision to raise awareness on gender rights, our partner NGO **Shaheen** took an out-of-the-box approach. They organized a **Qawwali performance** on 24th September, with a theme that emphasised on highlighting the rising cases of domestic violence and raising awareness around how Shaheen has focused on collective intervention for safeguarding gender rights. The lyrics of the qawwali were written by Jameela Nishat, Founder, Shaheen entailing real life accounts of women survivors of violence from the Old City of Hyderabad. This theatrical performance witnessed participation from over 150 violence survivors.

## Congratulations – Awards

We are proud to share that Ashif Shaikh CEO of our NGO partner **Jan Sahas** has recently won the Social Innovator of the year 2020 awarded by World Economic Forum and Schwab Foundation. Ashif Shaikh was amongst the five shortlisted Indians in the social entrepreneurship category. Jan Sahas has been recognised for empowering millions of migrant workers in India through **Migrants Resilience Collaborative** (MRC). The collaborative is India's largest grassroots-led initiatives which focuses on ensuring safety, security, and mobility for vulnerable migrant families across India. [Read More](#)

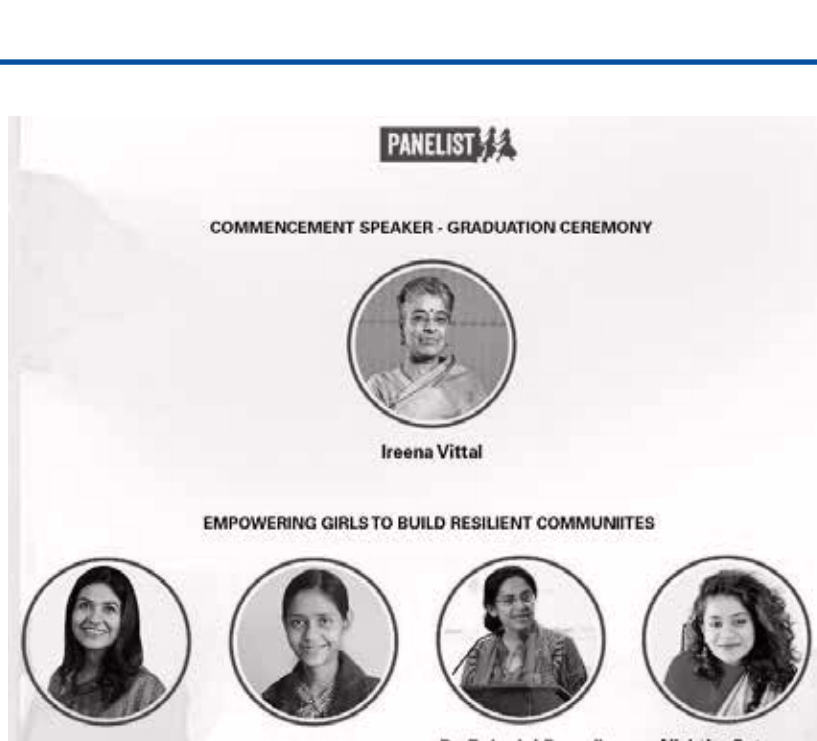


## Collective Conversations

Our partner NGO **Milaan Foundation** recently convened a state-level virtual meeting on 22nd September 2020 for collective action with a focus on adolescent girls especially in rebuilding resilient communities by scaling efforts at the state level towards collective programming. Milaan's community-based partners, grassroots girl leaders along with 60 civil society organizations and representatives from UNICEF came together for an interactive dialogue to collectively strategize and amplify the voices of adolescent girls.



**Milaan Foundation** had also organised **The GIRL ICON LEADERSHIP SUMMIT** 'Haq hai hausla bhi' on October 8, 2020 to celebrate International Day of the Girl Child. Our Chairperson and CEO, Vidya Shah, was also one of the panellists in an interactive discussion with these young girl leaders from the grassroots. They discussed the on-ground challenges that exist today and shared aspirational stories on empowering girls to build resilient communities. The Summit concluded by felicitating 200+ girl leaders who have led, educated and empowered over 4,000+ adolescent girls in Uttar Pradesh and Karnataka for over 2 years. Click [here](#) to watch the summit.



## Collective Empowerment

This International Day of Rural Women, join us in celebrating the contributions and journeys of our sheroes in building a road to resilient futures through **EdeGive Foundation's** digital campaign **Udyam Stree**. The initiative aims to foster and empower women entrepreneurs, nation builders and change-makers of the society. Click [here](#) and watch this space to know more!



**WOMEN IN RURAL INDIA HAVE BROKEN SOCIETAL BARRIERS TO TAKE MAJOR STEPS TOWARDS FINANCIAL INDEPENDENCE**