

# The Influencer bulletin

VOL II | ISSUE 10 | January 2020



**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. This month, as we mark the beginning of the new year, we bring to you highlights from the discussions facilitated at the thought-provoking Working Group on Philanthropy for Gender Equality convening. Get a glimpse into the four-day Mann Deshi Mahotsav which was an overwhelming evidence to the power of rural women entrepreneurship. Also, keeping the recent proposed implementation of CAA in view, we bring to you a brief of its possible effects on women.**

## Collective Conversations

The **Working Group on Philanthropy for Gender Equality** in India was co-chaired by EdelGive Foundation, Tata Trusts and Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) at Edelweiss House on 9<sup>th</sup> January, as an attempt to bring together diverse perspectives on how philanthropy and CSR could invest more towards women empowerment. The day witnessed insightful discussions on **India's Private Giving Report** by OECD, the **EdelGive Hurun India Philanthropy Report** and **India Justice Report**. Over 30 participants, who represented philanthropic funding institutions, family foundations, companies engaging in CSR and high net worth individuals discussed the opportunity inherent in domestic philanthropy, to steer opinion and support for issues like rights and justice.



## Mann Deshi Mahotsav with Entrepreneurs

Over 100 rural entrepreneurs, artisans and farmers came together between 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> January, at the *Mann Deshi Mumbai Mahotsav* to exhibit a wide range of art, music, sport, food and products particular to Mann Taluka in rural Maharashtra. The fair saw live demonstrations and trial counters with a spread of home-made *papads*, *chutneys*, snacks, similar things-particular to this part of Maharashtra. *Khan* and *Irkal* blouses, dress materials were a popular attraction. The four days mela organised by **Mann Deshi Foundation** not only served as an invaluable platform for rural entrepreneurs to directly connect with a large number of customers, on an ongoing basis that significantly boosted women's incomes and business acumen, but also gave an opportunity for urban citizens to experience the rural culture, art, food and heritage in the heart of Mumbai.

**Stay tuned for I-Witness Field Visit to Mann Deshi Foundation in February!**

[Click here for more glimpses of the Mahotsav](#)

## In the News

With the recent Citizenship Amendment Act, 2019 coming into play, we bring to you a glimpse of its possible effects and meanings for women. A report by **Women against Sexual Violence and State Repression** found that lack of documentation, such as birth certificates, marriage certificates, compounded with low levels of female literacy make women among the most vulnerable stakeholders in the system. The burden of producing proof of documentation required to prove citizenship through paternal families becomes extremely high since in the still existing patriarchal system seem like far-fetched privileges for most women. The rarity of marriage certificates further stems problems for women, who have had to change their surnames after marriage to establish paternal legacy. "Owing to the history and tradition of being denied land and lineage entitlements, and inherent gender bias in the process of implementation in the patriarchal system, women stand to lose the most as opposed to their male counterparts—Muslim female students from JMI and AMU or the mothers sitting in at Shaheen Bagh, women taking a stand at social media are reportedly receiving rape threats for voicing their dissent", says Evita Rodrigues, Author at Bastion. However, with the increased participation of women exhibits that the vulnerability does not deter women across the country, the visibility of women continues to increase.



\*Representational images