

Hi {{ contact.FIRSTNAME }},

India's animal welfare movement is entering a phase of growing visibility, institutional engagement, and philanthropic momentum. Funders, corporations, researchers, and civil society organisations are increasingly recognising animal welfare not as a peripheral concern, but as a critical component of building a healthier, more sustainable future. Over the past month, this shift has been reflected across major ecosystem convenings, partner-led initiatives, and mainstream discourse on food systems and animal welfare.

A key milestone in this evolution is the emergence of the **India Karuna Collaborative**, which brings together people and organisations to end animal suffering, mitigate climate change, and create a healthier world for all. In the past few months, this initiative, initiated by India Animal Fund has garnered the support of **70+ leaders** from business, journalism, finance, policy, sustainability, and other industries.

The Steering Committee of the Collaborative consists of ten organisations whose collective insights and actions are helping scale the collaborative of **50+ partner organisations** including animal protection, public health, environment, education, youth and other allied organisations. The **official launch** of the Collaborative is scheduled for 11th March 2026 in Mumbai where leaders across sectors will convene to place animal welfare at the centre of India's climate, health, and economic future.

Ecosystem Spotlight

Advancing Philanthropic Leadership in Animal Welfare



On January 31, 2026, India Animal Fund participated in the **India Animal Welfare Forum** hosted by the Upadhyaya Foundation, which convened philanthropists, nonprofit leaders, and ecosystem stakeholders from across India. IAF's CEO, Rekha Raghunathan, was a speaker at the opening plenary, "**Funding Animal Welfare: Why India Needs Philanthropic Boldness.**" The session examined structural barriers that have historically limited philanthropic capital in the sector, and explored how more strategic, collaborative funding approaches like a Funding Circle can enable scale and long-term impact. Rekha highlighted an often-overlooked reality: "*Much of the cruelty farmed animals face is invisible, and that's where the work must begin.*"

The Forum marked the launch of a **₹14 crore animal welfare fund**, reflecting growing institutional commitment to strengthening funding infrastructure and accelerating ecosystem progress.

Partner Spotlight

Plant-Based Eating Gains Mainstream Momentum



This January, **over 3,20,000 Indians participated in the Veganuary campaign**, signalling rapidly growing awareness and adoption of plant-based diets.

This shift extended beyond individual consumers. Companies, hospitality providers, and food brands, including **Hilton Hotels & Resorts, Chaayos, and Nature's Basket**, introduced plant-based menu options and workplace initiatives, reflecting increasing institutional engagement with sustainable food systems. [Read more.](#)

These developments represent an important step toward diversified food systems that can improve public health outcomes, reduce environmental pressures, and decrease reliance on animal-intensive production.

Enabling Healthier Food Choices Across Institutions

In January, Redefining Ahimsa Foundation organised a corporate and institutional webinar in collaboration with Dr. Achyuthan Eswar, lifestyle physician and co-founder of Sampurna Ahara. Participants from five companies and four educational institutions attended the session, which focused on **evidence-based approaches to nutrition and preventive health**. Participants shared positive feedback and reported increased awareness of the health and sustainability implications of dietary choices, with several indicating conscious shifts toward reducing meat and dairy consumption.

Institutional engagement of this nature plays a critical role in enabling scalable, long-term change across both public health and animal welfare outcomes.

Ecosystem Convenings

Advancing Sustainable Food Systems Dialogue

The Plant Based Foods Industry Association (PBFIA) will host the 4th Plant Based Foods Summit on March 10, 2026, at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, alongside the 40th AAHAR International Food & Hospitality Fair. The Summit will bring together policymakers, research institutions, startups, investors, and industry leaders to explore innovation and technology-led transformation across India's food systems. Supported by stakeholders including the Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI), FSSAI, APEDA, and FAO, the Summit reflects growing national momentum toward sustainable and diversified protein systems. Learn more [here](#).

Enabling Strategic Philanthropy and Partnerships

Animal welfare remains one of the most neglected areas, given its scale and systemic importance. India Animal Fund works to bridge this gap by identifying high-impact opportunities, enabling credible implementation partners, and facilitating strategic philanthropic and CSR engagement. Our role as a backbone organisation is to ensure that resources are deployed effectively, partnerships are strengthened, and interventions deliver measurable, scalable impact. To explore collaboration or partnership opportunities, write to rekha@indiaanimalfund.org

"Compassion, in which all ethics must take root, can only attain its full breadth and depth if it embraces all living creatures and does not limit itself to mankind." - Albert Schweitzer

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