



## How we're doing!

### Introducing GDI's new initiative: Icons of Nation Building!



Icons of Nation Building is a series of conversations conceptualised by the GDI team to create a new platform for thought leaders to interact with young nation builders in the social impact space. [Feroze Varun Gandhi](#), third-term member of Parliament from Pilibhit and Sultanpur constituencies in Uttar Pradesh, flagged off the series at the India International Centre on the last Friday of February.

He discussed his brand new book 'The Indian Metropolis – Deconstructing India's Urban Spaces' which captures the changing realities of Indian cities. By

highlighting aspects like housing, finance, water, primary healthcare, mechanisms that fight crime, he has stitched together a collection of solutions for urban India.

The discussion with Feroze Varun Gandhi was centered around data and on-ground exposure of the lived experience that public policies become.

GDi's nation builders are looking forward to more such sessions that will illuminate causes and consequences critical to India's growth story.

## Kefi 2.0

### Disconnect to Connect



Continuing its tradition of taking a step back to relax, rejuvenate and reconnect with our evolving purpose of nation-building, team GDi spent the 24th and 25th of February on its mini annual offsite Kefi 2.0!

To bring its meaning of happiness and joy alive, Kefi 2.0 was joined by our existing and soon-to-be team members, which also gave the bigger GDi family the time to connect and explore the spirit and strength of the team.

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## Where we're going!





## Digital Transformation Unit

The Education Minister for Basic Education, Government of Uttar Pradesh, [Shri Sandeep Singh](#), launched a series of student-centric solutions to help them seamlessly access state-of-the-art digital content. These solutions in the form of chatbots include Nipun Bharat Weekly Quiz, Video Library Bot, Math Practice Bot and Doubtnut, all through a single platform i.e SwiftChat.

SwiftChat is an AI enabled conversational platform, indigenously designed and developed by our partner organization [ConveGenius](#). In this endeavor, GDi has been assisting the state to ensure that these chatbots are designed as per the state's academic context and has also undertaken capacity-building efforts for on-field officials and teachers to ensure effective penetration of these chatbots. The data generated from these will also help set up Vidya Samiksha Kendra to drive evidence backed decision-making by the state.



## Mission Buniyaad

Ever since the scale-up launch of Mission Buniyaad by the Education Minister of Rajasthan, the team of on-ground implementors, [Kaivalya Education Foundation](#), technical partners, [Convegenius](#), and the strategic partner GDi partners have collectively worked towards the program's objectives by enabling the existing digital infrastructure in government schools for personalized and adaptive learning of students.

One of the digital touch points in the Mission Buniyaad scale-up is the existing ICT labs in the school that has the potential to provide a sustainable and scalable learning solution in the school. To make the existing infrastructure ready for a digital and personalized learning environment, the team worked on building the Ubuntu OS compatible Personalized and Adaptive Learning (PAL) software. The PAL software developed by the Mission Buniyaad team is currently being installed in each school with ICT labs by a team of Gandhi Fellows in the project.

Over the course of four months, number of schools with Mission Buniyaad PAL application has increased to ~800 making it India's largest ed-tech initiative that enables the government infrastructure for personalized digital learning. With this milestone, the program now provides access to personalized digital learning to ~64,000 girl students and in total ~1,28,000 students of Rajasthan.

# Know our nation builders!

What is new at GDi?

## Meet Madhunika!

[Madhunika Iyer](#) joins GDi with prior experience at [PRS Legislative Research](#). At PRS, she was responsible for tracking macroeconomic & industrial policy developments and analyzing legislation and budgets. She holds a bachelor's in economics from [SVKM's Narsee Monjee Institute of Management Studies \(NMIMS\)](#), Mumbai and a master's in economics from [Columbia University](#), New York.



At GDi, Madhunika aims to leverage her skills in research and analysis to transform the last-mile effectiveness of governance systems and create impact at scale.

In her free time, Madhunika can be found watching any and every major sport or learning the drums.

## Meet Nikunj!

[Nikunj Agrawal](#) joins GDi after a stint at [Darwinbox](#), a HR-SaaS company where he looked at strategies to expand the business to new geographies including USA, and the Middle East. He has worked on Product, Finance, Strategy.

He holds a Bachelors in Commerce (Honors) degree from [Shri Ram College of Commerce](#), Delhi. While in college, he was the Vice-President of the NSS unit of his college and headed the same for over a year. He

joins GDi to find his interest in the impact sector and leverage his experience of working towards the upliftment of the people in different domains and find his calling while bringing impactful change to the nation.





During his free time, you can find him watching movies of different languages, reading non-fiction books, and occasionally playing Badminton.

Come Join Us!

## What we're thinking!

Sharing our recent learnings, thoughts and conversations through blogs, events and more!

As we prepare for 2023 stubble burning season, today's training is critical for



Preparing comprehensive action plans

Solving issues/Taking feedback

Strengthening preparedness for paddy harvesting season (2023)



January 30

### Online workshop on paddy residue management

To strengthen Punjab's preparedness towards paddy straw residue management, team GDi organized an online training workshop with officials from the District Administration, Dept. of Agriculture and Punjab Pollution Control Board from all the 23 districts. The training will help officials

implement a robust block and district-level action plan, comprising in-situ and ex-situ management strategies.

## What we're learning!



### **Credit guarantee helps banks take a chance on MSMEs but is this the full truth?**

Acknowledging the essentiality of MSMEs for growth and employment the articles put an argument of prioritizing the effort to understand the causes of the credit gap before increasing our reliance on policy interventions



### **PISA: Mission Failure**

With so much evidence from student testing, why does the education system continue to struggle? The article attempts to explore the answer to this pressing question.



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