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## Help us celebrate a STEM star in your life today ☆

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Sun, Feb 11, 2024 at 1:48 AM

**Dear Friends,**

Let's celebrate the women in our families and networks involved in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) fields on this **International Day of Women and Girls in STEM!** The worldwide participation of women in STEM jobs is only 28%, with that figure dropping to 24% in the USA, 16% in Japan, and 14% in India. Asia Initiatives promotes STEM education for girls through our Maker Labs project in India and our work with formerly incarcerated women in New York, so that women are free to pursue careers in whatever field they choose.

In this newsletter, we continue our **"25 Stories for Our 25th Year"** series, spotlighting two extraordinary stories of women and girls in **STEM** fields in our own projects.

### **Story #3: InfoBridge Chatbot, Connecting Villages With a Click**



Meet our **"Makers"** at our partner run project **Vidhyalay Udhyam**. These young girls have decided to transform their community's access to crucial information, and innovated a **chatbot on WhatsApp**, to bridge the information gap that has long challenged their village. This chatbot, a marvel of coding and dedication provides villagers with immediate access to a wealth of information on Government schemes and more. Whether it's a farmer learning about the latest weather conditions to protect their crops or a student discovering a scholarship that could pave the way to further education, the chatbot is a testament to the power of technology when wielded for the common good.

The **Makers' project** helps young girls become interested in STEM fields, and teaches them the maker mindset and entrepreneurial thinking skills. Other inventions that have come out of our maker labs include bicycle mills for farmers who cannot travel to the nearest mill, solar-powered umbrellas with built in lights, and many more!

### **Story #4: Sital Pradhan aspires to be a police officer!**



In the remote rural landscape of **Niladripur**, where traditional roles discourage girls from studying STEM subjects, **Sital Pradhan** has determined to do exactly that. The daughter of a farmer and housewife, Sital joined our Digital Literacy Center run by our local partner Voluntary Integration for Education and Welfare of Society (**VIEWES**) in her nearby village of Podampeta. This center, a beacon of learning and opportunity, is offering Sital and others like her a chance to learn computer skills.

Three days a week, Sital travels from her village to Podampeta. She mentors two younger students through our **Cascades of Learning** "each one, teach two" program, sharing her knowledge with them to earn **SoCCs**, which she spends on her own courses. Sital sees in her mentees the future she is helping to build—one where digital literacy is a tool for empowerment and a stepping stone to dreams previously deemed unreachable for women. Sital aspires to become a police officer, a goal that speaks volumes about her courage.

## **Geeta to Speak at Eva's Saturday Salon today at 5 PM**



Join us today at **5 PM EST on [Zoom](#)** to hear our Founder, Geeta Mehta, discuss how financial capital can be leveraged for Ecological and Social Capital, true sustainable development, and happiness. Dr. Mehta will unpack how shifting capital emphasis starts with **YOU**, as well as cover how not to measure everything in terms of financial capital and create a happier and healthier world for the generations to come.

**Join us on March 16 in Washington DC  
to celebrate our SuperNovas!**

JOIN US FOR OUR INAUGURAL EVENT

# SUPERNOVA SUMMIT

SATURDAY, MARCH 16, 2024 9 AM-2:30 PM  
WASHINGTON DULLES AIRPORT MARRIOTT  
CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST AND LUNCH INCLUDED, \$125 PER TICKET

## AWARDEES

Susan Blaustein Novita Rumgangun Kylie Schuyler Kathy Matsui Reema Nanavaty Yvonne Aki-Sawyer

## PANEL OF EXPERTS

Mary Grate Pyos

Kirsten Dueck  
CEO of NESST

Pamela Sams  
Behavioral Financial Advisor

Helen Yang  
New Horizons Consulting

## KEYNOTE SPEAKER

MARY GRATE PYOS

## HOSTS

Geeta Mehta  
Co-Founder, Asia Initiatives

Marianne Clyde  
Co-Founder, Isn't She Amazing

Lorna Magill  
Co-Founder, Isn't She Amazing

asia initiatives WORLD HOPE INTERNATIONAL Isn't She Amazing

We're excited to be co-sponsoring the inaugural **Supernova Summit** with our partner, **Isn't She Amazing**. This event will honor women who have made a significant impact on the world around them by helping other women. We are delighted that members of the Asia Initiatives family will be honored/featured at this event including **Kylie Schuyler, Susan Blaustein, Kathy Matsui, Reema Nanavaty and Helen Yang**. You can sign up [HERE](#) to join us at the Dulles Marriott in case you can be in Washington D.C. on March 16. Please also feel free to share this invite with friends there who may be interested. 🍷

Thanking you for your support, and wishing you happy celebrations launching the **Year of the Wood Dragon** and **Losar**, as it is called in Tibet!

Geeta and the Asia Initiatives Team

Click [HERE](#) to contribute to the Makers at VU or Sital Pradhan's Digital Literacy group!



Asia Initiatives has special consultative status with the  
Economic & Social Council (ECOSOC)  
of the United Nations



Asia Initiatives is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that promotes sustainable development for underserved communities, with a particular focus on women and their families.

**You can contact us at [info@AsialInitiatives.org](mailto:info@AsialInitiatives.org)**

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