

राजेन्द्र राठौड़



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पूर्व-मंत्री,

Date. : 21.10.2025

चिकित्सा एवं स्वास्थ्य, आयुर्वेद

ई.एस.आई. एवं संसदीय मामलात विभाग,  
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**To Whom It May Concern**

It gives me immense satisfaction to extend my endorsement and appreciation for the Informal Economy Index (IEI), a youth-led initiative conceptualized and led by Ms. Ariana Agarwal.

The IEI represents one of the first district-level, data-driven frameworks in India designed to measure the vulnerabilities of informal workers across income stability, debt exposure, access to social protection, and livelihood mobility. What distinguishes this model is its bottom-up approach; combining youth-led field surveys, academic rigor, and community participation to generate evidence-based insights that can directly inform local and state-level policy.

Having served as Minister for Rural Development, Health & Family Welfare, and Parliamentary Affairs for the Government of Rajasthan, I have seen first-hand the challenges of extending welfare access to informal and migrant workers. The IEI Dashboard's structure, which consolidates micro-level data into actionable district insights, offers an efficient, replicable model for decision-makers and administrators. Its emphasis on integrating financial literacy, debt-relief mechanisms, and enrollment drives for social security schemes aligns closely with ongoing government priorities for inclusive growth.

I particularly commend the project's ability to mobilize over 60 volunteers, reach multiple districts, and translate findings into implementable pilot solutions such as banking outreach vans, enrolment camps, and skill-linkage workshops. These interventions demonstrate both feasibility and scalability, reflecting the initiative's potential to complement official development programs.

I strongly believe that the Informal Economy Index and its associated dashboard can play a valuable role in bridging the gap between data and action, helping policymakers and institutions build a more secure future for India's informal workforce.

I fully support this initiative and encourage continued collaboration between youth leaders, community organizations, and government bodies to expand its impact across the country.

Warm regards,

  
(Rajendra Rathore)  
Former Health Minister