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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 a pioneering, data-driven framework aimed at assessing the vulnerabilities of informal workers across multiple dimensions such as income stability, access to social protection, and livelihood mobility. What makes this initiative truly commendable is its grounded and participatory approach — combining academic rigor with field-level engagement to generate insights that can directly inform district and state-level policymaking.

Having served in the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) for 37 years, including six years as Inspector General, I have witnessed firsthand the value of structured data, precision, and discipline in decision-making. The IEI's framework, which translates micro-level evidence into actionable recommendations, reflects these very principles — clarity, accuracy, and accountability — essential for effective governance and institutional planning.

I am particularly impressed by the project's ability to mobilize youth, conduct extensive district-level surveys, and implement practical pilot interventions such as financial literacy programs, enrolment drives for social security, and skill-linkage workshops. These efforts demonstrate not only strategic thinking but also a genuine commitment to inclusive national development. Having positively impacted over 2,850 workers across 8 districts in India, IEI has made a measurable and meaningful difference in the lives of many workers.

The Informal Economy Index embodies the spirit of informed civic engagement, offering a model that bridges the gap between data and implementation. I strongly believe it can make a meaningful contribution to improving the socio-economic resilience of India's informal workforce.

I extend my full support to this initiative and encourage continued collaboration between youth leaders, government institutions, and policy stakeholders to expand its reach and impact.

Warm Regards,

**(Ajeet Singh Shekhawat)**  
Retired Inspector General, CISF  
Recipient of the President's Police Medal for Distinguished Service  
Recipient of the Police Medal for Meritorious Service

