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**To Whom It May Concern**

It gives me immense pleasure 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 an innovative, data-driven framework designed to evaluate the vulnerabilities of informal sector workers across key dimensions such as income stability, access to social protection, and livelihood mobility. What makes this initiative particularly remarkable is its participatory and research-based approach — blending academic insight with field-level engagement to generate meaningful and actionable policy inputs at both district and state levels.

With over **45+ years of experience as an artist**, I have witnessed how art, culture, and community engagement can serve as powerful mediums for social awareness and inclusion. The IEI's focus on empowerment through knowledge, participation, and structured data reflects a similar philosophy — that collective creativity and informed effort can lead to lasting social change.

I am deeply impressed by the initiative's ability to bring together young minds, mobilize grassroots participation, and implement impactful on-ground interventions such as financial literacy workshops, enrolment drives for social security schemes, and skill-linkage programmes. These efforts demonstrate not only vision and leadership but also compassion and responsibility toward India's informal workforce.

The *Informal Economy Index* stands as a commendable example of how youth-driven initiatives can bridge the gap between research and real-world impact. Its outcomes highlight the transformative potential of collaboration, innovation, and social commitment.

I extend my full support to this inspiring endeavour and encourage continued partnerships among youth leaders, community organizations, and government institutions to expand its reach and strengthen its long-term impact.

Best Regards,



**(Meenakshi Rathore)**

*Renowned Artist*

*Recipient of the Rajasthan State Award & Rajasthan Merit Award*

