

# ILSS and EkStep Foundation Join Hands to Catalyse Digital Capacity in India's Social Sector

Category: Business

written by News Mall | May 30, 2025



In a bold move to accelerate digital transformation in India's social sector, **India Leaders for Social Sector (ILSS)** and the **EkStep Foundation** have partnered to scale and strengthen the **Koita Centre for Digital Transformation (KCDT)** at ILSS. This Centre, established by ILSS, in partnership with the **Koita Foundation**, is designed to equip non-profits with the digital capabilities needed to scale impact and drive innovation.



**(L-R): Anirban Chaudhury, Head, KCDT; Anu Prasad, Founder and CEO, ILSS; Shankar Maruwada, Co-Founder and CEO, EkStep Foundation**

The initiative aims to bridge the digital divide in the development ecosystem by offering structured leadership training, practical toolkits, and a vibrant ecosystem that enables mission-driven organisations to adopt technology and data more effectively.

*“At ILSS, we’ve long recognised that leadership in the social sector must evolve to meet the challenges of a digital world,” said **Anu Prasad, Founder and CEO of ILSS**. “This partnership with EkStep Foundation and Koita Foundation through KCDT is our collective response to a deeply felt need across the ecosystem-non-profits need support, not just with tools, but with the mindset and skillsets to lead digital transformation meaningfully.”*

KCDT, housed within ILSS, has been operating since early 2025 under the leadership of **Anirban Chaudhury**. As a centre of excellence, it has already begun serving as a hub for experimentation, co-creation, and capacity-building for non-profits across the country.

*"Through KCDT, we are creating a space that enables social impact organisations to learn, adapt, and innovate using digital means-without losing sight of the human mission at the core,"* said **Anirban Chaudhury, Head of KCDT**. *"We believe the digital transformation of the sector must be inclusive, intentional, and guided by real-world insights from changemakers on the ground."*

*"Digital transformation is no longer optional for social organisations-it is essential. At Koita Foundation, we are committed to enabling long-term capacity in the sector by supporting initiatives like KCDT that provide structured guidance, peer learning, and real-world application. It's about building digital confidence, not just digital systems,"* said **Rekha Koita, Co-founder and Director of Koita Foundation**.

A key component of the partnership is the **Digital Transformation for Social Impact (DTSI)** program-a curated learning journey for non-profit leaders to strengthen digital strategy and implementation. Complementing this is the upcoming **Digital Toolbook for Social Impact (DiTSI)**-an open-access guide featuring frameworks, case studies, and actionable resources for integrating digital tools across operations, program delivery, fundraising, and impact measurement.

*"Digital transformation in the social sector isn't about just digitising existing processes-it's about reimagining how we learn, interact, work, and deliver value to communities,"* said **Shankar Maruwada, CEO and Co-founder of EkStep Foundation**. *"This collaboration is a commitment to building that capacity in a way that is open, accessible, and community-led."*

By bringing together nonprofits, funders, technology partners, and knowledge experts, this initiative seeks to build a long-term foundation for systemic digital transformation-one that strengthens India's development sector from the inside out.

### **About ILSS**

India Leaders for Social Sector (ILSS) is a leadership and capacity-building organisation that nurtures talent, skills, and vision within India's development ecosystem. Through its programs, ILSS builds future-ready leaders capable of driving scalable and sustainable social impact.

### **About EkStep Foundation**

EkStep Foundation is a philanthropy that works on technology-enabled, population scale digital transformation. Its work intersects Digital Public Infrastructure, AI and Open Networks. The organisation's works focuses on the 'Learning to Earning' journey, with a specialised focus on school education, jobs and agriculture.

### **About Koita Centre for Digital Transformation (KCDT)**

KCDT is a strategic initiative established by ILSS and The Koita Foundation to accelerate digital transformation in India's social sector by enabling knowledge, tools, and collaborative learning opportunities for non-profits and sector leaders.

