

INVESTING IN TOMORROW

Morningstar's Commitment to Sustainability





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Morningstar's mission is to empower investor success.

It is our true north, and what drives us forward. Our research and investment data helps our retail and institutional clients draw insights to help grow a sustainable economy and plant the seeds for a better tomorrow. Caring for the environment by incorporating ESG factors into investment strategies and principles of responsible investing is a growing priority for Morningstar. Issues such as clean energy, waste treatment, recycling, and gender and race diversity impact all of us as individuals and investors.

 **We are committed to building resources to make a positive impact on the planet and its people.** 

We recognize the critical challenge that climate change presents for our communities and have prioritized issues pertaining to environmental impact, protecting our biospheres, including limiting carbon emissions, and working with communities that are vulnerable and need

help and support. We are committed to building resources to make a positive impact on the planet and its people.

Community service at Morningstar India is led by Green Leaf, formed in 2018 when a group of energetic and passionate Morningstar employees came together to endorse and implement long-lasting green practices and work towards the upliftment of the underprivileged, particularly by helping them with education, healthcare, and livelihood options.

Green Leaf is working with leading non-profit organizations on the issues of climate change, protecting our biodiversity, and conserving our environment, and at the same time working towards enabling the marginalised achieve their potential and to improve their health and overall well-being.

As we protect the earth and inspire a sustainable tomorrow, we're nurturing a healthier planet for all. Our initiatives are run along the lines of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals and Green Leaf focuses its contributions on five main areas —

1. No Poverty
2. Zero Hunger
3. Good Health and Well Being
4. Quality Education
5. Climate Action

Through Green Leaf, Morningstar India aims to help build a sustainable green economy and remains a strong proponent of using financial resources to safeguard our natural wealth.

As a step toward maximizing employee donations, Morningstar also has a contribution policy where the company matches the contribution made by each employee up to 500 USD annually.

OUR CSR INITIATIVES

Nurturing Projects That Make an Impact





Photo by Anu Balla on Unsplash

Empowering Pardhi Youth, Madhya Pradesh

Stigmatised as a criminal tribe, the Pardhis (literally, 'hunters') are an economically-ravaged community struggling to find a foothold in society. A nomadic community whose traditional occupation has been hunting, were hired by the Mughal emperors and the British to help in hunting, whether it was for sport or for their kitchens. Their traditional occupation contributed to a massive shrinking of India's tiger population in the 20th century. Today, the Pardhis, the children of the forests, face extreme poverty, social stigma, and displacement, alongside scarce economic opportunities and a crippling level of illiteracy.

▮▮ **Morningstar has made a world of difference to the lives of the Pardhi students by sponsoring our education. We now feel empowered enough to not only take the next step towards mainstream society, but can also reach out to others in the community to convince them towards education.** ▮▮

– **Vikram Pardhi**

Our work with Last Wilderness Foundation (LWF) involves helping Pardhi youth find meaningful work that complements their tradition and culture. To a community that has never known the walls of a classroom, we are opening the doors to higher education by providing for all their financial needs. With education we're laying the foundation for success and currently have:

- 2 boys pursuing their B.Sc. in Agriculture from A.K.S University at Satna
- 2 girls pursuing their B.A (Arts) from Mahatma Gandhi University at Satna

We've also sponsored 100 eco-friendly stoves for the Pardhi community and other villagers, which reduces the wood usage by 60% when compared to the traditional stove (chullah). This has saved 10-20 kg of wood per family daily. Most important, the eco-friendly stoves reduce smoke intake, which weakens the lung capacity and long-term immunity – an issue that can make the Pardhi population more susceptible to diseases like COVID19.



Photo by Dharma Mehta on Unsplash

Re-vegetating the Narmada River Basin, Madhya Pradesh

The river Narmada, the ‘giver of joy’, is the lifeline of Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat. It is a vital source of drinking water, supporting over 25 million people, and is home to rich and unique flora and fauna, including species of tiger, leopard, and deer. Though it is considered sacred, the 1,289km-long river is struggling against the pressures of development such as:

- Nutrient pollution from agriculture
- Deterioration of its riparian areas
- Excessive extraction of water
- Water blockage and build-up due to dams
- Contamination due to sewage and solid waste

When the Government of Madhya Pradesh initiated the Narmada Seva Mission to conserve the river, The Nature Conservancy (TNC) moved swiftly to restore select riparian zones alongside riverside villages with native plant species.

Our work with TNC includes funding science-backed restoration models to improve the ecosystem at three sites

in Hoshangabad district, namely, Ajera, Bhela, and Dhansi. In the pilot project, 80 hectares of riparian area in Hoshangabad were restored. We’re helping TNC revegetate and restore the Narmada’s riverbanks with native species, well-suited to the river’s ecosystem. As of October 2020, notwithstanding numerous pandemic-related hurdles, 22 more hectares of the river basin were restored in Hoshangabad, 5,150 native saplings were planted, and 758 man-days of employment were generated.



Photo by Anagha Varrier on Unsplash

Uplifting Communities in 45 Villages Around the Ranthambore Tiger Reserve, Rajasthan

Former hunting grounds of the Maharajas of Jaipur, the Ranthambore Tiger Reserve spans a massive 1,334 square kilometres and is one of the largest National Parks in Northern India. With Sanctuary Nature Foundation (Sanctuary), we're helping villagers from 45 villages around the Tiger Reserve explore viable and dignified livelihood options.

This includes helping educate the children in the community, providing guidance and opportunities to villagers to generate alternate livelihood options. This helps protect innocent villagers from partaking of illegal wildlife trade or schemes that destroy the environment. The work also extends to reducing human-animal conflict that takes a heavy toll on crop and livestock.

Currently, in the wake of COVID-19, impetus has shifted to creating awareness about the infectious disease, stalling its transmission, and helping prevent the next pandemic. Activities that increase contact between wildlife, livestock,

pathogens, and people can accelerate disease transmission and Sanctuary is helping educate villagers about the role they can play in averting an era of pandemics while also teaching them to stay safe amid COVID-19.

Together with Sanctuary, Morningstar seeks to prevent the spill over of new infectious diseases, uplift communities in protected areas, conserve biodiversity, and promote a high-degree of ecological balance.

COVID-19 COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAM

Sowing and Reaping as a Team



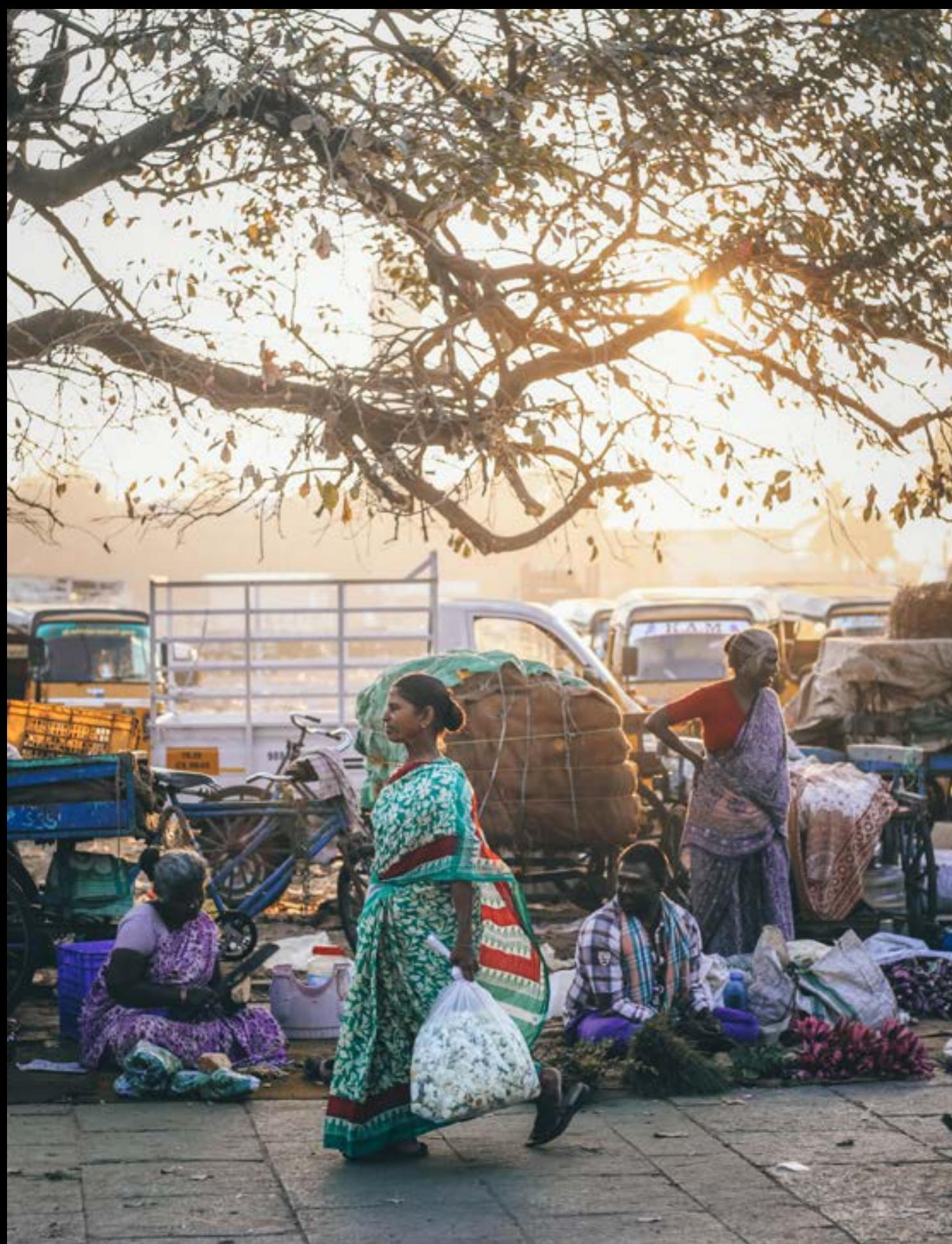


Photo by Prashanth Pinha on Unsplash

Alleviating Hunger and Homelessness

As the pandemic brought the economy to a grinding halt, society's most vulnerable demographics faced untold challenges. To mobilize relief, Morningstar reached out on a pan-India level.

Our migrant population was severely affected by the lockdown, left without jobs and even food and shelter. Meanwhile, healthcare workers marched to the frontline without quality PPE kits. Simultaneously, specific communities like Mumbai's dabbawallas and differently-abled persons found themselves jobless or in need of the skills demanded by a digital-first era. Accordingly, we partnered with NGOs and organisations to offer quick relief on a large scale, directing our efforts towards these initiatives.

With COVID-19 and the ensuing lockdowns tightening their grip over society, countless daily wage workers were rendered jobless and India emerged as an epicentre of hunger. As food supply to far-off non-agricultural villages was disrupted, disadvantaged families found themselves surviving on a single meal a day, which often comprised rice

and a spoonful of pickle, if luck had its way. These families were faced with the cruel trade-off between defying the lockdown and catching the virus or remaining at their shanty homes and seeing their sparse food stocks dwindle.

At Morningstar, we knew that turning a blind eye to food insecurity was not an option. So, we set out on a mission to feed 800 families of daily wage laborers, small scale industry workers, earthen pot and incense stick makers, and other migrant workers in 7 villages around Murbad and a quarry in Nerul. We provided these needy families with customized ration kits containing supplies for 4–6 persons sufficient for a month. Helping us on the ground were two prominent NGOs, St. Catherine of Siena School and Orphanage and Vishwabalak Kendra.



Photo by Ibrahim Rifath on Unsplash

Reversing Unemployment

For decades, Mumbai's community of dabbawallas have fed over 2 lakh people each day with their on-time meal delivery service. However, with the lockdown, the fate of the legendary lunchbox delivery system and the future of our beloved dabbawallas hung in the balance. To find a short-term yet sustainable solution, some dabbawallas started delivering fresh vegetables to Mumbaikars' doorsteps.

To aid them in this promising initiative, Morningstar partnered with Kissan Farm, an organization that employed dabbawallas to deliver needed essentials. With this thoughtful proposal, reversing unemployment became as easy as purchasing fruits and vegetables through a dedicated link.

About 70 million in number, the differently-abled in India have usually found themselves on the end of the spectrum when it comes to opportunity and earning a dignified livelihood. Barely 0.5% of them held jobs and the pandemic as well as the push towards digital work threatened to

exclude them even more. Uplifting this community was Youth4Jobs, a not-for-profit organization that provides placement-linked skilling to youth with disabilities. As the pandemic broke out, Morningstar resolved to support Youth4Jobs in their efforts to equip differently-abled persons with digital training. By working together, through funding and donating essentials like smartphones, we turned disability into ability.



Photo by Govind Krishnan on Unsplash

Providing PPE to Healthcare Workers

Warriors within a healthcare system that is highly unorganized and largely disproportionate, India's healthcare workers often found themselves at the frontline without adequate protective gear. Staff would often take ill due to insufficient and substandard PPE kits, and this only multiplied the burden on our healthcare workers, who had already put their lives at risk and given up on going home after the day's work to avoid spreading the virus.

As cases and healthcare demands rose, we directed our support towards the initiatives of SEEDS India, a notable NGO whose ultimate goal is to build the resilience of people exposed to disasters. With SEEDS India we sponsored WHO and ISO certified PPE kits, each of which contained a full body suit with shoe covers, a pair of gloves, an N95 mask, goggles, and a face shield, to hospitals in the Delhi NCR region. Together, we formed a stronger and healthier community.

Behind all our CSR efforts were Morningstar employees who enthusiastically contributed towards improving lives in

2020 and beyond. Be it through conventional donations, an art auction, or funding drives, our employees reached out wholeheartedly to accelerate our COVID-19 initiatives.



Photo by Syed Ali on Unsplash

Mitigating Livelihood Distress

The country, in the recent past, has been through tearing times due to the onslaught of the second wave of COVID-19 pandemic. Though hundreds of thousands have been directly impacted by Covid and struggling to find medical help, there are millions of others who have lost means of livelihood induced by the lockdown and the sluggishness in the economy, threatening their basic sustenance. The worst affected are the urban poor, slum dwellers and migrant labourers, among others.

A large number of non-profits are trying to help in whatever way they can. Many are focused on providing oxygen and other medical support, while some are assisting the poor with food and other essentials.

At Morningstar, we have always tried to contribute to the efforts of these non-profits. We recently donated a large sum of money to two such organizations that are working tirelessly to address some of the urgent needs of people impacted:

- Sewa International
www.sewainternational.org
- America India Foundation:
www.aif.org

We also created a platform accessible by all our India-based employees to help them donate to these organizations. The specified amount to be donated was deducted from their salary and paid out to these non-profits.

Learning from the environment, which bids us to work together, we partner with organizations, non-profits, businesses, and governments to fast-track sustainable living.



The Nature Conservancy (TNC) India

The largest conservation organisation in the world, TNC envisions a vibrant and healthy India that manages its natural resources with sound science. Piloting science-backed and nature-based solutions is at the heart of what TNC India does.

www.tncindia.in



Sanctuary Nature Foundation (SNF)

Since 1980, SNF works as an agent of change at the trijunction of biodiversity, climate change, and economics. Its activity spans garnering appreciation for wild nature, gathering support for nature conservation, equipping people for conservation action, and influencing public opinion and policy.

www.sanctuarynaturefoundation.org



Sanctuary Nature Foundation (SNF)

Wildlife conservation is the constant pursuit of Last Wilderness Foundation. LWF engages with urban and rural communities as well as forest departments to understand and implement effective conservation measures.

www.thelastwilderness.org



Wildlife Conservation Trust (WCT)

Wildlife Conservation Trust adopts a 360° approach to conservation by focusing equally on wildlife protection and community development. WCT works in and around 160 Protected Areas across 23 states of India, covering 82% of India's 50 tiger reserves and 24% of the 655 national parks and sanctuaries.

www.wildlifeconservationtrust.org



Green Yatra

A leading Indian NGO that seeks to nullify environmental imbalances, Green Yatra is championing a green journey towards the protection, conservation, and betterment of Mother Nature and humanity. Its aim is to pass down a habitable, pollution-free, and green earth to future generations.

www.greenyatra.org



SEEDS India

Sustainable Environment and Ecological Development Society India has one ultimate goal: building the resilience of people exposed to disasters. This endeavour has spanned 26 years and SEEDS enables practical solutions by grafting innovative technology on to traditional wisdom.

www.seedsindia.org



Sewa International

Sewa International began as a movement in 1993 to engage the Indian Diaspora(NRI) worldwide. It encouraged these people to remain connected with Indian roots through contribution to humanitarian causes locally and in India, especially in times of natural calamities, which cause large scale distress, and needs huge resources for recovery.

www.sewainternational.org



Pratham Foundation

One of the largest NGOs in India, Pratham works to provide India's underprivileged children with quality education and focuses on high-quality, low-cost, and replicable interventions to address gaps in the education system.

www.pratham.org



American India Federation (AIF)

The American India Foundation is committed to improving the lives of India's underprivileged, with a special focus on women, children, and youth. AIF does this through high impact interventions in education, health, and livelihoods, because poverty is multidimensional.

www.aif.org

Testimonials

Being a part of the Green Leaf team has been an absolute inspirational and enlightening journey for me. The platform has allowed me to have the greatest impact on people’s lives, and be able to drive a positive change. Volunteering with Green Leaf has also given me an opportunity to meet so many people from different walks of life – the villagers, the healthcare workers, the panchayat members, orphans, homeless – all brilliant to be around, and I personally have learnt a lot from my conversations with them.



Sapna Patnaik
Executive Assistant
Morningstar

It gave me a great sense of happiness and satisfaction when I got to contribute to helping a large group of needy people. The virtual art auction that was conducted by the company was an incredible initiative and being a part of the community outreach program has been a rewarding experience.



Fazilat Shaikh
Associate Team Leader
Morningstar

I had the opportunity provided by Morningstar to do my bit towards the struggling communities from the comfort of my house during the pandemic. It created a great collaborating experience with great people with the same values and a platform to bring people together and do something exceptional. All in all, it is a blessing that brings me joy to know that we will always be remembered for the good we did in times of despair!



Anslem Peter Coelho
Senior Data Research Analyst
Morningstar



Kids for Tigers initiative in Ranthambore, Rajasthan



Mother's Day celebration with kids from Mahape, Maharashtra



Inchuree Pardhi teaching students in Pardhi, Madhya Pradesh



Class in Progress in Pardhi, Madhya Pradesh

Cultivating a Culture of Sustainability

Community service is so much more than funding and employee engagement helps us sustain a culture of social responsibility and meet our community development goals. ~200 employees from Morningstar India have already signed up as volunteers and are helping the community in ways big and small.

Come, volunteer with the CSR team – Let's work together for people and the environment!

Get in touch:

Green Leaf Initiative
greenleaf@morningstar.com