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Title : Premji's new initiative to fund non-profits

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Wipro chairman and India's top philanthropist Azim Premji has established a new philanthropic venture, distinct from the Azim Premji Foundation, that will focus on awarding grants to nonprofits working in a variety of socially important areas.

While the Foundation will continue to focus on education, the new entity, called Azim Premji Philanthropic Initiatives, will fund projects in areas like nutrition, disabilities, support for the marginalized, and governance.

“Azim Premji Philanthropic Initiatives is also focused on the same purpose of contributing towards building a just, equitable, humane and sustainable society. As of now, we are building a team with expertise in relevant areas, and developing a strategy,” said Anurag Behar, CEO of Azim Premji Foundation. Premji, with a net worth of \$16.4 billion, is India's biggest philanthropist. Since 2010, he has transferred more than \$4 billion to a trust that controls the Foundation. It's not clear how much of this will be earmarked for the new initiative, or whether the new initiative will see an altogether fresh allocation.

The Foundation now works across seven states in the country that has 350,000 schools, to improve the quality and equity in government school education. It has also established the Azim Premji University in Bengaluru, which is focused on developing talent and research for the education and broader social sector. It currently has about 1,200 people.

Behar said that unlike the Foundation that does most work by itself, the new entity will not be “operational”. Rather, it will be a “grant-making” entity. “It will make grants to various not-for-profit organizations, working in various fields of the social sector other than education,” he said.



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