Till the **change** is for **real**

Infosys
Foundation

Till the change is for real

What is it like when a boy living on a railway platform sees the inside of a classroom for the first time? Or when a remote village that has lived all its life without electricity discovers solar power? What does it mean for a fishing community devastated by cyclone when it gets a chance to rebuild its life and livelihood? How does collective empathy give birth to the world's largest midday meal program? What inspires scores of young, successful professionals to take a break from their careers to teach underprivileged children?

Each question above holds the key to a story – a story of positive change, affecting the lives of individuals and communities.
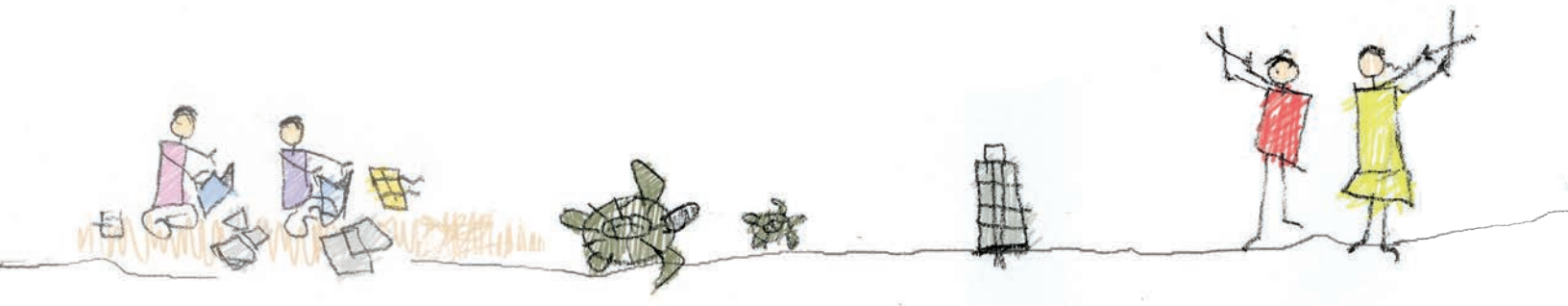
We at the Infosys Foundation started our journey twenty long years ago, and since then, we have come across many extraordinary stories and experiences along the way which have reinforced our faith in compassion and humanity. In the pages that follow, we bring you some of the stories that we have collected over the last year. We are grateful to be a tiny part of these stories – to be able to serve as catalysts in the larger social transformation.

Today, we stand here to pledge ourselves anew to our commitment – we will continue marching on our chosen path till we are sure that **the change we want to see is for real**.

Contents

Chairperson's message

When we took small and hesitant steps to start the Infosys Foundation in 1996, I would never have imagined that in the next two decades, we would win the prestigious Economic Times Corporate Citizen Award not once, but twice. The fact that we were given the honor a second time last year shows that we have, indeed, come a long way, and more importantly, we haven't lost steam along the journey.

Every year brings its own challenges. In the last two years, our country faced unexpected floods in Chennai, the devastating Hudhud cyclone in Andhra Pradesh and Odisha, and yet another spell of drought in Karnataka, but these unexpected calamities also showed us the true spirit of volunteerism. From collecting and distributing relief materials overnight to building 200 homes in eight months, our volunteers have set themselves impossible targets and achieved them. It is good to see more and more employees of Infosys joining in and volunteering.

While looking for new areas that could benefit from our aid, we also realize that some focus areas remain constant for us. Health and education are two such sectors. In education lies the future of a nation, while the availability of affordable

healthcare determines its well-being. We continue to invest in projects in these two areas – from building libraries and other infrastructure in schools to preserving the indigenous medical traditions of India. Being the social responsibility arm of one of India's leading technology companies, we also try to promote the culture of technological innovation and scientific research in institutes of higher learning by sponsoring chairs and providing scholarships to promising underprivileged students.

Infosys has campuses in several states of India, but definitely not all. What has given us great pleasure and satisfaction over the last few years is our work in states where Infosys does not have a presence. We have reached remote corners of Arunachal Pradesh and Assam, troubled pockets of Jammu and Kashmir and impoverished tribal villages of Madhya Pradesh. Much of this has been made possible by the government-mandated increase in corporate CSR spending, and we are grateful for getting the opportunity to make a difference to the lives of people in need.

But no matter the leap in our funds and the increased number of projects that it helps us take on, we still have

a lot of ground left to cover. And that is precisely why we must continue on our mission, placing the welfare of the larger community above our personal benefits. Our work is not over till the change is for real, and the change is there to stay.

I must thank our tireless volunteers, our trustees, committed partners and ever-willing friends and advisors who make it possible for us to give back to our larger community and help Infosys be more than a corporation. From your enthusiasm and encouragement, we gather the inspiration to spread our wings wider and touch more lives.

Sudha Murty
Chairperson, Infosys Foundation

Infosys Foundation Trustees

Sudha Murty
Chairperson, Infosys Foundation

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Awards and recognition

Infosys Foundation, along with Infosys Foundation USA and Infosys Science Foundation, received the Corporate Citizen award at the ET Awards 2015 for the scale and quality of effort in its CSR activities. The Economic Times Award, considered one of India's top business honors, was conferred on Infosys for its exemplary CSR initiatives, especially those focused on science and mathematics. This is the second time Infosys has received this award, having won it earlier in 2002.

Infosys also ranked third in the country in CSR spending according to the rankings published by the Government of India in 2015.

Treading new ground

Akshaya Patra runs the world's largest not-for-profit midday meal scheme in 11,000 schools across 10 states in India

From plate to slate: The midday meal journey

A recent UNICEF report finds that more than 80 million children drop out before completing eight years of age and over eight million children are out of school across India. Aimed at curbing the rate of school dropouts, the midday meal scheme was planned by the government of India in 2001 and implemented in 2004. Since then, several non-governmental organizations have partnered with the Central and state governments to provide adequate nutritious food to children in schools across rural and urban India.

Another study by the World Bank estimates that 60 million children in India are underweight as a result of inadequate nutrition. Right at the beginning of its journey, the Infosys Foundation had identified improved access to education, and eradication of hunger and malnutrition as two key developmental areas for social investment, while working towards the larger goal of social transformation.

The midday meal scheme brings these two focus areas under one umbrella. The Foundation is one of the biggest

partners of Akshaya Patra, the world's largest not-for-profit run midday meal program serving 1.5 million children from 11,000 schools across 10 states in India.

As part of its partnership with Akshaya Patra, the Foundation supports the midday meal program at many places across India including specific interventions in deficit kitchens like, Jaipur, Bhubaneshwar, Bangalore, Mysore and Hyderabad. With a dedicated corpus fund, the program has been able to support 32,000 children in these locations.

A meal and more

In 2014-15, the partnership entered a new phase, with the Foundation increasing its grant several fold to cover the building and running of additional kitchens.

The partnership saw the launch of two additional schemes in select schools in Jaipur and Jodhpur in Rajasthan through a corpus fund. The first, named *Jaldhara*, is aimed
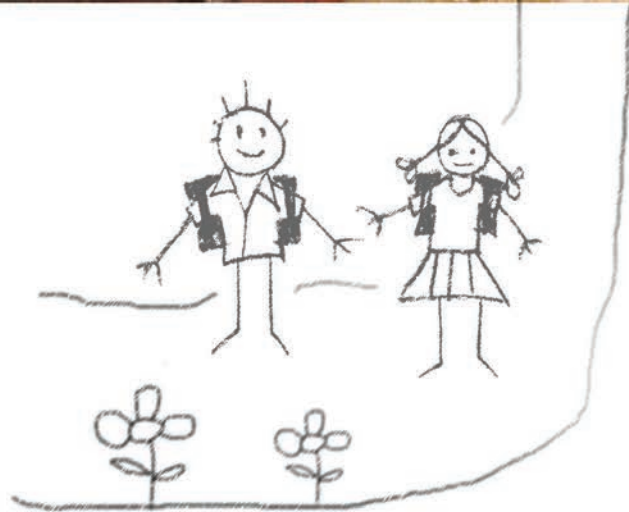
at providing safe drinking water to over 1,00,000 school children across 800 schools in Jaipur district. The second involves a health and hygiene intervention for 10,000 adolescent girl students, offered to over 65 schools in Rajasthan. These two projects will be ongoing and the support further strengthened.

The work done by the Foundation and Akshaya Patra has resulted in a considerable reduction in malnutrition, dropout rates and overall well-being of school-going children in these areas.

Reaching out, reaching far

Akshaya Patra is looking to make its kitchens self-sustainable and optimize the existing kitchen facility to cater to a larger number of children. With the continued support of the Infosys Foundation, Akshaya Patra looks forward to running the program in a few more regions of India by combining good management with the application of innovative technology and smart engineering.

Making a difference

Impact studies conducted at the midday meal locations in 2014 have shown a significant rise in school enrollment rates at the primary level, and a notable fall in the dropout rates in the middle and secondary school levels. This proof of positive impact motivates us at the Infosys Foundation to continue our work towards freeing the society from classroom hunger and promoting universal access to education.

Studies show a significant rise in school enrollment rates and a fall in dropout rates at Akshaya Patra's midday meal locations

Turtle tales: Saving the Olive Ridley

The Olive Ridley is among the oldest living turtles in India and is regarded as a living fossil based on its survival through centuries of evolutionary process. Rising urbanization, leading to a severe space crunch, has endangered the survival of this species that is now facing the threat of extinction.

The species, which falls under Schedule 1 of the Indian Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, is accorded the highest protection (along with species such as the royal Bengal tiger, Asiatic elephant, leopard, and Gharial). This gives an indication of the importance of the Olive Ridley in maintaining our ecological balance.

The coastal areas of Odisha make up one of the largest nesting grounds for the Olive Ridley. As many as three lakh females nest in the Odisha coast every year (by burying their eggs in the sand), a phenomenon called *arribada* (meaning 'the arrival' in Spanish). It has been observed and documented that a majority of the emerging hatchlings

are destroyed as a result of people trampling on them or predators hunting them. Yet another disturbing fact for conservationists is the tendency of the hatchlings to stray towards the land instead of the sea, resulting in dehydration and eventually, death.

The Infosys Foundation began its association with the World Wide Fund (WWF) for the conservation of the Olive Ridley in May 2015. For the Foundation, the first and most important step was to provide logistical support to WWF which has been working for the conservation of the Olive Ridley in Odisha since 2004. The mass nesting ground on the beach requires fencing and continuous patrolling during the entire incubation period of 50 to 60 days – a task impossible to perform without involving the resident community. This logistical support was provided by the Foundation.

The Foundation helped the mission by enabling interaction with the local community. A large part of wildlife conservation is about creating awareness among

A protected nesting ground with newly hatched Olive Ridleys finding their way to the sea

communities residing in and around the habitat of the endangered species and mitigating their livelihood-related problems. The Olive Ridley conservation efforts are no exception, and the Foundation mobilized its local resources to facilitate interaction between the WWF conservationists and the Olive Ridley's human neighbors.

The nesting grounds, spanning 1.5 to 2 km, have been fenced to provide maximum protection to the nests from land predators and also to stop the disoriented hatchlings from heading towards land. This is an ongoing process as newer nesting grounds continue to be created.

Studies have shown that of every 1,000 hatchlings that enter the sea, only one survives till adulthood. This alarming statistic is reason enough for a more concerted effort towards conserving the species, and the Foundation is happy to be a part of this conservation effort.

The hatchlings are rescued and released on the beach so that they can make their way safely into the waters

Art and culture

Providing an international stage for Indian classical arts

It could be the melody of the flute, the timed beats of the tabla, the *abhinaya* of a Kathak performance or the intricacies of a Hindustani or Carnatic classical raaga — when the richness and uniqueness of Indian music are lauded on the national or international stage, it reinstates the importance of preserving our traditional performing arts.

One of the areas where Infosys Foundation has made a strong mark from the beginning is in supporting the performing arts, often by funding artists from across India and providing appropriate forums for them to showcase their talent within and outside the country. In partnership with the Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan (BVB), the Foundation has supported at least 20 Indian artists by sponsoring their concerts in the U.K. between April and December, 2015.

Sitar players Rais Khan and Hafiz Khan, descendants of Ustad Abdul Karim Khan and Ustad Bale Khan of the Gwalior Kirana *gharana*, were funded to hold concerts in the U.K. in March 2015, as well as a performance each in Iran and at the U.S. Navika Festival. Pandit Satish Vyas, renowned santoor player and student of Pandit Shiv Kumar Sharma, paid a tribute to Pandit Ravi Shankar in London in April 2015, accompanied by Pandit Rajkumar Misra on the tabla. At Mahotsav, the annual BVB music and dance festival, in July 2015, Carnatic flautist Chandan Kumar was accompanied by Mattur Srinidhi on the violin and Pirashanna Thevarajah on the *mridangam*. Hindustani

vocalist Hemang Mehta, a disciple of Pandit Jasraj, gave the second concluding concert of the festival, accompanied by Pandit Rajkumar Misra on the tabla.

Nada Yoga, a benefit concert held in London in June 2015, featured a concert by Padma Vibhushan Pandit Hariprasad Chaurasia on the flute, accompanied by Pandit Samar Saha on the tabla. Manoj Kumar Mishra of the Benaras *gharana* gave a solo tabla recital at the Vividha concert in June. Among other BVB events was an evening of sitar by Manju Mehta, a student of sitar legend Pandit Ravi Shankar; a Bharatanatyam recital by Dr. Padma Subrahmanyam and her grand-niece Mahati Kannan; and a *veena* masterclass and recital by Kannan Balakrishnan from Chennai.

Partnering with BVB, the Foundation also sponsored a three-week course for both dance and music in the U.K. that culminated in a finale showcase as part of BVB's annual summer school. This included a Hindustani vocal course by Suranjana Bose, a Patiala *gharana* artiste and student of Pandit Ajay Chakraborty and Dr. Girija Devi; a Bharatanatyam course by Surya Rao; a course in Carnatic violin by Mattur Srinidhi; Kathak classes by Saswati Sen, senior disciple of Pandit Birju Maharaj; Carnatic vocal classes by Sudha Ragunathan, a disciple of Kalanidhi Dr. M. L. Vasanthakumari; a *mridangam* course by Srimushnam Raja Rao; and a Bharatanatyam workshop by Dr. Padma Subrahmanyam.

Pandit Hariprasad Chaurasia at a concert organized by the Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan in partnership with the Infosys Foundation, in London

Fostering global understanding through culture

Sculpture of sage Bharata, the author of the Natya Shastra, a Sanskrit treatise on the traditional performing arts of India

In an increasingly multi-cultural world, the need for disseminating indigenous cultures and imbibing from non-native ones has assumed great importance and urgency. The Chennai-based Bharata Ilango Foundation for Asian Culture (BIFAC) is motivated by the idea of fostering global cooperation and understanding through the use of culture as a soft power. Its work is aimed not only at creating awareness about the civilizational unity of Asia but also at reinforcing India's relationship with the entire Asian continent through culture.

The Infosys Foundation became a partner in BIFAC's activities in 2015. The Foundation is supporting the construction of a building for the Bharatamuni Memorial and Museum of performing arts, including the cost of material and labor, and is instrumental in supporting about 50 workers and their families, who have been staying and working at the site.

To sage Bharata is attributed the composition of the *Natya Shastra*, a Sanskrit treatise on the traditional performing arts of India, including theatre, dance, music and literature. Among other things, the Natya Shastra propagates the idea of a set of moods, or *rasas*, that form the foundation of Indian classical dance, music and literature. Bharata's works are also one of the oldest forms of grammar for the performing arts from which BIFAC draws inspiration for its work.

This museum will house granite sculptures reflecting the 108 *karanas* (dance movements of the Hindu deities, Lord Shiva and Parvati) projecting the ancient common roots of *Natya* (dance), with relevant artefacts from all over India and Asia. These sculptures will adorn the walls on one side of the building, with artefacts from a range of other Asian performing arts on the other side. The rich variety of cultural heritage on display will serve as an inspiration for both researchers and tourists while also acting as a cultural corridor for Asian artists and thinkers to interact.

Promoting art and culture, building a nobler society

The promotion of indigenous arts and the revival of endangered art forms have been priority areas for the Infosys Foundation. In Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan (BVB), the Foundation found an able partner to further its vision of encouraging the arts and providing a platform to deserving artists of India.

In 1997, the Foundation set up an endowment fund with BVB to organize an annual lecture by eminent scholars on Indian culture and philosophy. Over the years, funds received from the Foundation have been utilized to organize cultural programs in India and abroad, conduct workshops with eminent musicians, artists and scholars, revive the art of puppetry, aid physically and mentally challenged artists in rural areas, build classrooms and school buildings, provide scholarships to promising artists, and augment the salaries of teachers in BVB schools.

The Foundation has also extended its support to the BVB schools in Mysore, Shimoga and Bangalore. The grant provided by the Foundation was directed towards building classrooms, providing books for the library, setting up a science laboratory and acquiring sports materials, to name a few. This has enriched education and given a boost to the morale of children attending these schools. In almost all the schools run by BVB in Karnataka, there is a continuous effort to blend the heritage, culture, values and wisdom of ancient India with the constantly changing needs and demands of today's world, seeking to develop every student as a self-reliant, socially useful, disciplined and ethical citizen of tomorrow.

In 2014-15, the Foundation and BVB together presented over 200 cultural programs in different parts of India as well as overseas through the Infosys Foundation Endowment Fund. Through its three *kendras* – Bangalore, Kolkata and Tiruchirappalli – BVB has nurtured young talent and conducted 65 programs benefiting 382 rural artists.

The corpus fund was expanded in 2015-16 and the Bhavan-Infosys Outreach Program was formally established in the states of Odisha, Kerala, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Rajasthan and Maharashtra, to start operations with effect from April 2016. Additionally, each of these centers will conduct at least two programs every month to encourage upcoming artists.

This partnership, through the many programs to encourage artists, aims to reach out to at least 1,500 beneficiaries annually. In the years to come, the Foundation hopes to strengthen this partnership to create cultural infrastructures that would be far-reaching and inclusive.
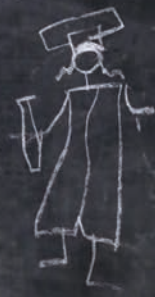

Infosys Foundation and Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan collaborate to provide artists a platform to showcase their talents

Education
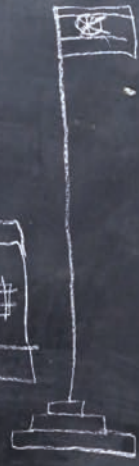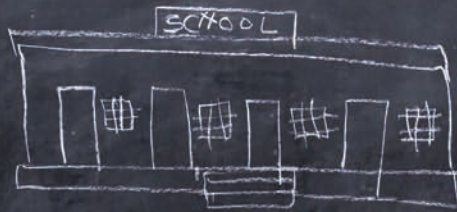
Enhancing human potential

Self-driven cars are a reality that may soon become the norm in some parts of the world. However, in India, there are more pressing concerns. An intelligent electric shuttle vehicle that gets people from one mode of public transport to another, easing their commute and enabling better use of public transport, is being developed by the students of the Indraprastha Institute of Information Technology (IIIT), Delhi. The students are also in the process of developing a smart Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) design that has several applications. To support this spirit of innovation and research, the Foundation has partnered with IIIT-Delhi for the establishment of the Infosys Center for Artificial Intelligence (AI) at the institute.

AI is increasingly becoming a major focus of computer science research and development all over the world and an important tool for problem-solving in industries.

The Infosys center for AI at IIIT-Delhi aims to develop technology that can define the future

The Foundation's interest in AI is a reflection of Infosys' vision of leveraging AI to address complex business and real-life challenges. The Infosys Center for AI at IIIT-Delhi will not only identify areas where AI can be applied but also focus on cutting-edge research in robotics, big data and graph analytics, planning and scheduling, and applying learning techniques in software engineering and mobile applications.

The Infosys Center for AI will develop tools and technologies that can be transferred to industries and start-ups for production and from there to the end-users. It will directly involve (and benefit) at least 100 postgraduate students, 200 undergraduate students, 100 faculty and professionals from across the country over the course of the next few years. It is expected that the center will have six to eight faculty members, about 20 PhD students and many more M.Tech and B.Tech students. The center will also start several courses in AI which will help more students gain knowledge in this area.

Plans for the center also include workshops and short-term training programs for faculty and practitioners, which will familiarize students and trainees in the field of engineering and computers with the latest technologies and concepts.

As the CSR trust of one of India's leading technology companies, the Foundation plans to have similar partnerships with institutes of research and work on areas of mutual benefit.

The electric shuttle, designed by the students of IIIT-D, eases connectivity to public transport

Nurturing research and higher learning

Carrying forward its vision of promoting higher education and specialized research, Infosys Foundation has partnered with a number of academic institutions across the country to institute chair professorships. The objective is to promote excellence in teaching and research in these centers of learning. Between 2014 and 2016, the Foundation has instituted, through a corpus fund, 11 chairs across eight academic institutions in India.

At the International Institute of Information Technology, Bangalore (IIIT-B), two chair professorships in Computer Science were instituted. Two chair professorships were also set up at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore, in an effort to attract the best scientists in the fields of Physics and Mathematics from institutions around the world.

Another chair professorship was established at the Institute of Bioinformatics and Applied Biotechnology (IBAB), Bangalore, for furthering research in identifying new drugs and to perform drug-targeting in parasitic infections and cancer.

At the Chennai Mathematical Institute (CMI), two chair professorships were instituted to augment the center's research capabilities in Mathematics. Research areas under Mathematics include algebraic geometry, commutative algebra, representation theory, and dynamical systems, while computer science research areas include algebraic and circuit complexity theory, computational geometry, complexity analysis of operations on finite automata, and verification of timed and hybrid systems.

To contribute to the research on agricultural growth, value chains and food security, one chair professorship was introduced at the Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER), Delhi. The research aims to map the nature of agricultural growth in India since the 1990s, identify the key drivers of this growth, study the functioning of agri-markets, logistics, agri-processing industry, and retailing, among other things.

The Foundation also created an endowment chair at the Presidency University, Kolkata, for a scholar and teacher of eminence in Economics.

In 2015-16, two more chair professorships were instituted. The first one is at the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad (IIM-A), aimed at encouraging funds management research. The second, at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Delhi, aims to promote and support faculty scientists and students to pursue research in the area of oncology. The AIIMS chair fund includes support for the exchange of students and faculty with various national and international universities and travel fellowships to young doctors, scientists and faculty to enable them to attend international conferences.
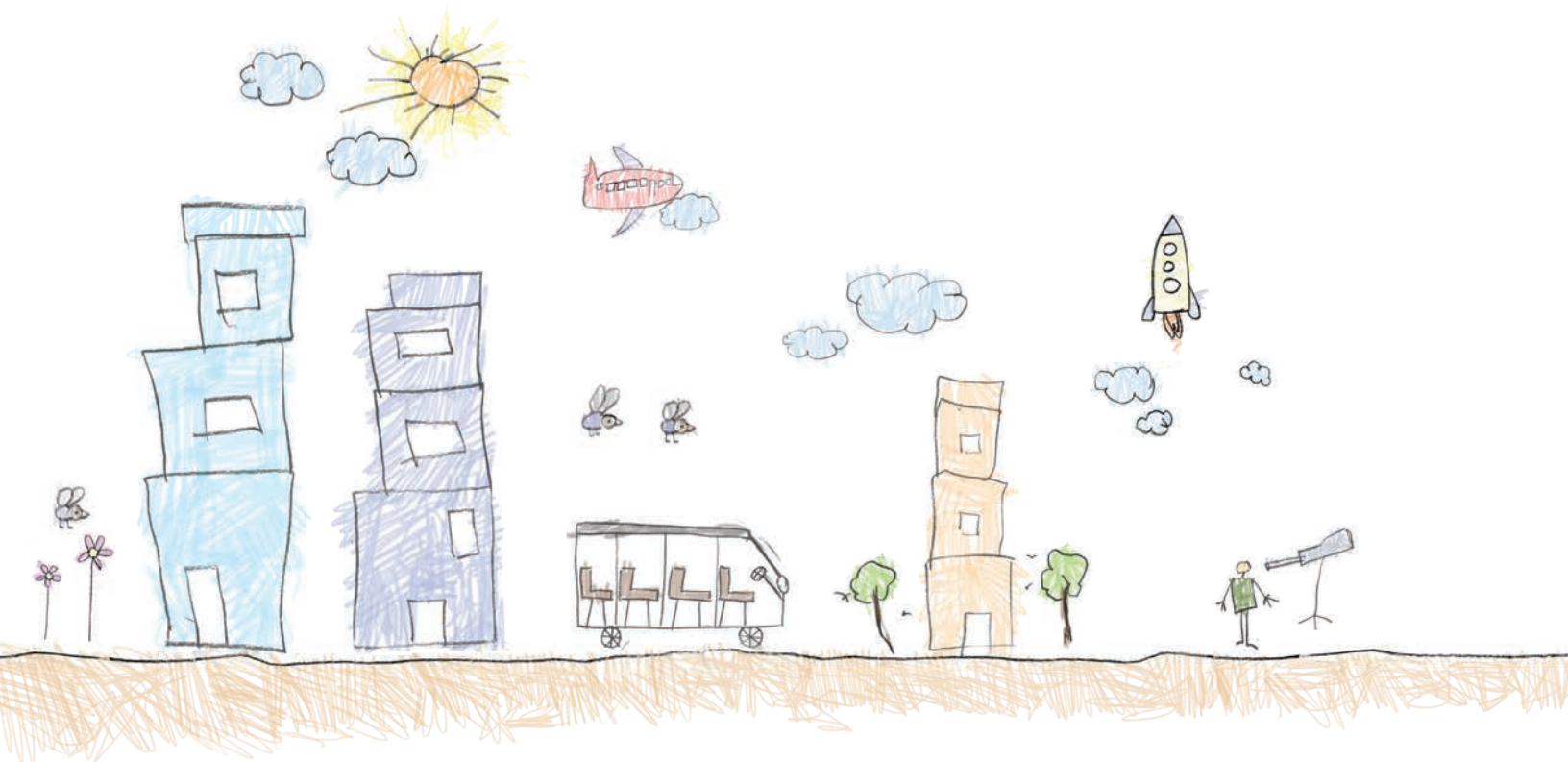
Lending a helping hand to distant schools

The Vivekananda Kendra began its operations in 1974 as the second phase of the Vivekananda Rock Memorial project to spread man-making and nation-building ideas in the underdeveloped and remote areas of India's north-eastern states through education. Nearly four decades since they were established for students from tribal areas, by 2014, the Vivekananda Kendra Vidyalayas (VKV) were in dire need of renovation in order to continue on the mission of providing education to children in the remotest areas.

Built around the same time in 1977-78, the infrastructure in these schools was in a shambles. As a result, students were deprived of some of the most basic facilities, such as laboratories, libraries and proper toilets. In addition, the rising expectations and aspirations of students, parents and all other stakeholders, as well as the new Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) norms meant that proper facilities and infrastructure had to be created to enable all-round development of the students.

In 2015, the Infosys Foundation committed to support the renovation of seven schools in Arunachal Pradesh and two schools in Assam that would directly benefit at least 3,000 students and staff. These schools were, to a large extent, providing first-generation education to tribal children of remote areas. Geography, coupled with lack of communication and other resources, was the major challenge in providing adequate facilities to students and teachers. For reasons not difficult to fathom, the schools also faced great difficulty in hiring qualified personnel.

The Foundation decided to step in to improve the situation. In collaboration with VKV, efforts began to rebuild the infrastructure and facilities. The process is an ongoing one and will be completed over a period of time. The partnership with the Foundation has enabled VKV to take up infrastructure development across nine schools and create a conducive environment for furthering education in the area.

The Foundation is working as a development partner in this mission of taking education to the far-flung states of north-east India and other remote areas that are inaccessible and do not have any other support mechanism.

Living in the remote corners of the country need not necessarily mean no access to education

Computer skills, along with mainstream education, is the way to help children in the tribal areas of North-East India face the future

Building a better India, a learned India

When Priyanka Patil from Pune got the opportunity to complete her college education in Italy, it was more than a dream come true for her. Born to a low-income family, she had worked hard and earned the path to follow her ambition.

Priyanka isn't alone. Thirteen-year-old Aman Singh comes from a low-income, backward community in Mumbai and lives with a single parent struggling to make ends meet. He designed an informal learning circle to help his classmates better understand what they were learning and helped make education more inclusive.

Both Priyanka and Aman are students in schools under the Teach For India (TFI) program. TFI works towards eradicating inequity in education by offering the TFI Fellowship to outstanding college graduates and young professionals and getting them to commit two years of full-time teaching in under-resourced schools around the country.

TFI, a non-profit organization, was established in 2008. Infosys Foundation became a partner in TFI's fellowship program in April 2015. The Foundation supports TFI fellows in Delhi and Chennai as they take a break from their careers to teach underprivileged students. The partnership aims to achieve its goals through three crucial steps – sponsor excellent education by supporting TFI fellows, create collaborative technological solutions, and help TFI deliver its vision of excellence through impact measurement.

The first enables the fellows' induction into their classrooms and their long-term leadership journey through the five-week Summer Institute. Here, they undergo training through experiential learning and spend the second half of their days teaching students from underprivileged backgrounds.

The second step is designed to help increase organizational efficiency through process automation, along with creating and curating novel ed-tech solutions that are accessible to all children. In addition, the funds will help design tools and resources to accelerate leadership development and ensure continuous evaluation of the collective impact of the initiative.

Through this partnership, the program is reaching out to 56 fellows every year, directly impacting 1,960 students in Delhi and Chennai. The training and impact team, along with the technology team, is working with the 90-member staff, 1,104 fellows and at least 38,000 students in 331 low-income schools.

In the long term, we believe that this partnership will help create a powerful network of alumni who, influenced by their experiences in the classroom, will work towards effecting multi-sector solutions to India's educational problems.

Infosys Foundation and Teach for India have reached out to over 1,900 students in Delhi and Chennai since April 2015

Teach For India is curating widely accessible ed-tech solutions to help students from low-income schools

Healthcare

Guiding them back into the walk of life

A total of 510 patients were provided with artificial limbs and calipers in 2015-16 by the Bhagwan Mahaveer Viklang Sahayata Samiti (BMVSS) in partnership with the Infosys Foundation.

The non-governmental and not-for-profit organization created a corpus fund using donations from the Infosys Foundation in an effort to reach out to those with mobility challenges across the underprivileged sections of society.

The Infosys Foundation's association with BMVSS began in January 2015 when the Foundation saw first-hand the work being done by the organization in providing artificial limbs and other aids and appliances to the physically disabled in Jaipur. Impressed by this, the Infosys Foundation signed an MoU with BMVSS to further support their mission.

Necessity, they say, is the mother of invention. In the case of BMVSS, a life-threatening road accident resulting in multiple fractures to the victim acted as the trigger for the setting up of an organization that aims to provide access to the best prosthetic treatment for the less fortunate.

In 1975, BMVSS was set up as a registered society working in the field of rehabilitation of the physically disabled. The mission of the organization, since the very beginning, has been to enable victims regain their mobility and dignity, thereby helping them become independent members of mainstream society once again. BMVSS has also set up prosthetic fitment centers in other developing countries such as Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Philippines, Colombia and Rwanda

Besides aiding those with mobility challenges, BMVSS has also ventured into research. With support from the Infosys Foundation, BMVSS has allocated funds for research activities that involve the installation of infrared cameras for the GAIT laboratory, set up to study post-prosthetic amputee gait. As an additional support system, the lab provides gait and posture inputs to those with physical disabilities so that they can use their prosthetic limbs effectively. The Foundation is also supporting BMVSS in its research on artificial hands, with field trials and development of accessories for the Jaipur hand.

As BMVSS looks to expand its reach across geographies and enhance its support system, Infosys Foundation is helping it streamline and refine its processes and rapidly scale up operations for the benefit of a larger number of patients.

Since 1975, BMVSS has been helping victims regain their mobility and dignity, and helping them reintegrate into mainstream society

Saving India's wealth of healing plants

The Ashoka tree (Saraca asoca), once abundant in India is on the verge of extinction. This could deal a severe blow to the ancient medicinal practice of Ayurveda that has estimated the demand for the botanical drug preparation from this tree to be at least 2,000 tons per year.

The Ashoka tree represents just one of the over 300 native species of Indian medicinal plants that are of enormous contemporary value and which face the threat of extinction for various reasons like loss and fragmentation of their natural habitats and over-harvesting of wild populations.

The Infosys Foundation has partnered with the Trans-disciplinary University, managed by the Foundation of Revitalization of Local Health Traditions (FRLHT), in Bangalore since 2015. The Foundation supports the pioneering programs of the university to revitalize India's medical heritage through the conservation of 6,560 species of medicinal flora and documentation and scientific translation of their associated traditional knowledge.

Through this support, the university is working towards strengthening the development of the national herbarium of the plants used in Ayurveda, Unani, Siddha and *Sowa-rigpa* (Tibetan) medical systems. It is also working towards deepening the traditional knowledge databases of medicinal botanicals from the original medical texts of Ayurveda pharmacology also known as *Dravyaguna shastra*.

The university has also developed a comprehensive electronic database on this subject which contains biological properties of thousands of plants and herbal formulations that can be made from these plants.

The herbarium at FRLHT, Bangalore

A field study in progress at the university's Bangalore campus

This university, recognized by the government of India as a national center of excellence on medicinal plants and traditional knowledge, is currently working on developing a Geographic Information System (GIS) platform for the creation of a herbal pharmacopoeia. This is aimed at finding cost-effective herbal solutions from locally available plants for the primary healthcare needs in the rural households at H. D. Kote in Karnataka.

The program of conservation and scientific revalidation of India's medical heritage will benefit generations to come and more immediately benefit educational and research institutions, the herbal industry, medical practitioners, rural communities and regulatory authorities of the state and central governments. The Infosys Foundation, through its support to the university, recognizes the value and relevance of the knowledge of medicinal plants to healthcare applications in the contemporary world.

◄ *Students getting hands-on training in understanding and analyzing medicinal plants at the FRLHT laboratory*

Combating the emperor of all maladies

As a disease, cancer may be as old as the earliest civilizations, but it continues to remain one of the biggest challenges to medicine in the 21st century. The challenge is more acute in developing countries like India where large sections of the population have less than adequate access to secondary and tertiary medical care. While death rates are falling in the West, 70% of cancer deaths are reported in the developing world.

Among women in India, breast cancer poses the biggest threat. India now has over 17% of the world's total registered cases of breast cancer patients. While the incidence of the disease per 1,000 people is lower than countries like the U.S., France, Britain, Canada and Australia, the rate of mortality is much higher. And this points to the lack of awareness and proper treatment — in many cases, as a result of late detection — for cancer in general, and breast cancer in particular, in India.

Penn Nalam, a non-profit organization, a unit of Sri Dhanvantri Trust, with a focus on breast cancer awareness and treatment, believes in providing information in an effort to create access to medical options to treat breast cancer in women. Infosys Foundation joined Penn Nalam's efforts to address this growing concern among women in 2014 with awareness and screening camps at the Infosys campuses in Chennai for sub-contracted women employees.

The Foundation is assisting Penn Nalam to build a breast cancer research institute to study, detect, treat and cure the disease. This state-of-the-art, self-sustainable center that aims to bring the best of compassionate medical care to patients with breast cancer by 2017, will focus its research on breast cancer genetics, indigenous alternatives (Ayurveda and Siddha), drug evaluation development, clinical trials and prevention studies. The partnership will also support the training of clinical breast care nurses, palliative care nurses, radiology technicians, breast surgeons, medical oncologists and reconstructive surgeons.

Since October 2015, Penn Nalam has held 30 cancer screening camps with a total of 1,332 participants and 31 awareness programs that have benefited 7,400 women. Additionally, 84 patients have registered for treatment and consultations with the center.

With support from the Foundation, Penn Nalam is looking to conduct mammographic screening for 6,000 women, evaluate and treat 3,000 patients, including over 1,000 diagnosed with breast cancer, every year apart from reaching out to more women and their families to create awareness about timely medical checks in a bid to check the rising numbers of breast cancer cases in India.

Awareness camp for nursing students from various colleges, Narada Gana Sabha, Chennai

Destitute care

Child trafficking is a serious concern that needs to be addressed and eliminated

Bringing them out of the red-light shadows

For Sheela and Radha (names changed), a life of prostitution was irreversible. There was no going back from the red-light areas that defined their identities but they imagined a different life for their daughters. They wanted to give them education and an opportunity to lead life on their terms.

A non-profit voluntary organization in Mumbai – Prerana – gave these women the confidence to provide their children a dignified life by working towards ending inter-generational prostitution and providing shelter, health and education-related services to children living in the red-light areas of the city. The organization takes in girl children, who otherwise would have become victims of child trafficking and led into the same trade as their mothers.

The Infosys Foundation strongly believes in not just raising awareness on this issue but also protecting the girl child from being forced into a life of prostitution. The Foundation collaborated with Prerana in 2015 to support Naunihal, the children's home run by Prerana under the purview of the Juvenile Justice Act, 2000.

The Foundation formally initiated support in 2015. While it began with a donation of books to encourage the interest in reading among the children, it was firm in its commitment to do more towards curbing the growth of human trafficking for commercial sexual exploitation. The objectives were

clear – to eliminate inter-generational trafficking of children of Victims of Commercial Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking (VOCSET).

The VOCSET program works towards preventing Commercial Sexual Exploitation (CSE) of children, minors, under-aged girls and young women, and providing proper social reintegration and a dignified life with a right to choose their own path. The partnership has also emphasized on the need to encourage and empower CSE victims to establish their human rights and to provide much needed protection for children and orphans affected by HIV/AIDS.

The project, that aims to reach out to at least 5,000 children in the next few years, is working to achieve better health for those enrolled in the night care centers, provide protection, self-development and life skills education.

Sensitizing people about the brutality of child trafficking and the sex trade and getting policymakers and lawmakers to make lasting changes is not an easy task. Eradicating human trafficking for CSE is not a simple task either. The Infosys Foundation and Prerana hope to continue working towards achieving their mutual objective of steadily eliminating the bane of human trafficking.

Relief in the time of high waters

Unexpected heavy rains for over a week following the formation of low pressure in the Bay of Bengal resulted in floods in coastal Tamil Nadu in November-December, 2015. The city of Chennai, which received 1,049 mm (41.3 in) rainfall in November (the highest recorded since November 1918) was severely affected, and was officially declared a disaster area on December 2, 2015.

As with any natural calamity of this magnitude, the floods in Chennai required immediate relief and rehabilitation measures. While the loss of lives and property had to be handled at an administrative level, it was necessary for citizens and organizations to pitch in to help the city and its people get back on their feet. In addition to contributing to the Chief Minister's Relief Fund, the Infosys Foundation and volunteers from Infosys galvanized into action and took up the task of delivering food and relief material to the victims.

The Facilities team from Infosys, Bangalore, supported by members of the Housekeeping and Procurement teams, coordinated the relief work from Bangalore. Infosys Foundation had five vendor partners for commodities and two logistics partners to transport the relief material to Chennai. The Foundation's team purchased items in bulk for putting together household kits, which were then transported to the nodal centers in Chennai. With the help of volunteers from Infosys Bangalore and Chennai, the relief material was packaged and distributed keeping in mind the needs of individual families in target areas.

The Foundation partnered with various organizations, such as Ramakrishna Mission, Sri Ramakrishna Ashrama in Pavagada, Sarada Mission, and the Confederation of Indian Industry, among others. The Foundation worked in tandem with the ashrama in Pavagada to do extensive work in Villupuram ranging from distributing food packets and cooked food to blankets and medical supplies. With the help of the partner organizations, the Foundation was able to reach out to the people in some of the worst-affected neighborhoods of Chennai such as Velachery, Medavakkam, Okkiyam, Thoraipakkam and Tambaram, as well as in the districts of Chidambaram and Cuddalore. These partner organizations, located in different areas, worked as nodal centers from where relief material was distributed to the affected.

The volunteer teams from Infosys and the partner organizations – which began their work on December 4, 2015 and continued till January 7, 2016 – reached over 16,000 families across the three regions of Tamil Nadu. The relief materials distributed included mini grocery kits for 8,000 families, kitchen articles for 16,000 families, clothing and blankets for 14,000 families, stationery for 5,000 families and packaged household goods and articles for 12,000 families.

It was a tireless and seamless effort by the entire team in Bangalore and Chennai that led to timely support reaching those in need of help.

The Chennai floods of 2015 brought to a standstill lives of thousands of people who needed support to surface from this calamity

Rural development

Better sanitation. A cleaner nation.

Access to basic hygiene is an important aspect of the educational infrastructure of the country. For the children of rural Odisha, traveling several miles to school every morning is an ordeal. If that is one of the reasons behind students dropping out, another major factor, especially for girls, is the lack of toilets in the schools.

Declining literacy levels on the one hand and the absence of proper sanitation facilities on the other meant an unclean environment in and around schools. The Infosys Foundation felt there was a need to provide schools in this area with at least the basic amenities that would make the schools conducive for students as centers of education. The Foundation, along with Akanksha, the CSR wing of Infosys' Bhubaneswar development center, collaborated with the Odisha Primary Education Programme Authority (OPEPA), a government of Odisha undertaking, on a project to construct toilets in over 100 primary and higher primary schools in Odisha.

In line with the central and state governments' initiative for a clean India (*Swachh Bharat, Swachh Vidyalaya* meaning clean India, clean schools), the Infosys Foundation's grant has been utilized for the construction of these toilets. The grant covers the cost of building materials, labor charges for construction, and for ensuring the quality of construction of the toilets through authorized vendors or contractors.

Under the *Swachh Vidyalaya* program, the Foundation has successfully completed the construction of 365 separate and fully functional toilets for boys and girls in 110 schools in the state.

Availability of clean toilets in schools would not only take the initiative of cleanliness to the grassroots, but also work as an effective mechanism to minimize the school-dropout rate. The project was a challenging one for the Infosys Foundation – from the methodology for identification of schools (this was done by the employee volunteers at the Bhubaneswar office of Infosys) to finalizing the schools that required the infrastructure. Frequent follow-ups with the government as well as strict monitoring were required in order to plan and execute the program. Not just that, implementation of the construction work for the toilets in the schools required collaborating with various stakeholders such as government officials at several levels, headmasters, village committee members and vendor partners.

Grants from the Infosys Foundation ensured hygiene and sanitation facilities in 110 schools in rural Odisha provided under the Swachh Vidyalaya program

Building homes, rebuilding lives

On October 12, 2014, Hudhud, a cyclone with wind speed of up to 210 kmph, hit the coast of Andhra Pradesh and Odisha. It left a trail of devastation in its wake, uprooting trees and electric poles, and blowing away almost everything in its path, including electrical transformers, cars and straw-thatched huts. The port city of Visakhapatnam and its adjoining areas were in the eye of the storm. While Visakhapatnam had better infrastructural preparation to meet the cyclone, the fishing villages closer to the coast faced extensive damage and devastation. Pudimadaka, 40 kms south of Visakhapatnam, was one of them.

Five days after Hudhud's landfall, a representative of the Infosys Foundation visited the affected areas and saw the destruction first-hand. The Foundation then reached out to the state government to extend their offer of help. In conjunction with the state government, it was decided that the Foundation would build houses on land allocated by the government in one of the worst-affected areas to rehabilitate families who had lost their homes in the cyclone. In a novel public-private partnership model proposed by the Chief Minister, it was agreed that the Foundation would be responsible for the construction of 200 houses while the government would establish the required infrastructure, including water, electricity, sewage, clinic, school and a community hall.

After surveying a number of areas along with the government-appointed nodal officer, the Foundation chose a plot of land (3.5 acres) in Pudimadaka for the project. Before drawing up the blueprint, the occupational and lifestyle requirements of the intended beneficiaries were evaluated. Being a predominantly fishing community, families here needed space to dry their nets and other fishing equipment. Keeping this requirement in mind, two-storied buildings were designed, with space on the ground floor and terrace for drying.

Construction formally began on April 10, 2015. Beating the most daring timelines, three blocks were ready in exactly six months, and the remaining three took another two months. All the six blocks comprising 200 units have been ready since December 25, 2015 for handover to the beneficiaries.

While the Andhra Pradesh government is putting the infrastructure in place to make the colony fully functional, Infosys Foundation is satisfied that it could stick to its commitment and deliver on its promise ahead of the estimated time for the victims of one of the worst natural disasters in India's recent history.

Infosys Foundation has till date, constructed 200 homes in Pudimadaka, Andhra Pradesh for those affected by the Hudhud cyclone of 2014

The year that was – a consolidated view

In addition to the project stories detailed in the preceding sections, Infosys Foundation continued to support ongoing and new projects in partnership with several organizations to ensure that change happens for the real in making the world around us more equitable. Some of the significant projects from the many undertaken during 2015-16 are as follows:

Education

Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Mumbai : A corpus towards the study of Quantum structure of space-time, enhance the research program of the String Theory group, fund the Infosys Foundation Fellowship, management of a String Theory seminar series, and support research visits.

Vandemataram Foundation, Hyderabad : For supporting language, logic and life skills (LLL) program in government schools across Hyderabad.

Vidya Prasarak Mandal, Mumbai : Towards the purchase of buses that would help children from far-flung areas attend schools run by the Mandal in Mumbai.

Agastya International Foundation, Bangalore : Towards a corpus fund for augmenting education through enhanced teacher knowledge across Odisha and Maharashtra. Agastya uses the grants to own and innovate teaching methodologies and strengthen their role as co-constructors of knowledge in classrooms along with the use of mobile science labs across schools to create awareness and curiosity on science.

Arpan, Chandigarh : To support school admissions for needy children, implement *Padhai*, a special education program where volunteers from Arpan offer special tuitions in Maths and English for needy children, and provide healthcare for about 800 students in Chandigarh. Arpan is an employee volunteering trust operating from the Infosys Chandigarh development center.

Central Institute of Plastics Engineering and Technology (CIPET), Bhubaneswar : To provide vocational training by imparting skills, competency and employability training to the underprivileged under the Skill Development Training Program, along with enabling these students with appropriate jobs after the completion of their training.

International Centre for Theoretical Science – Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (ICTS-TIFR), Bangalore :Towards research collaboration and long-term partnerships with foreign institutions through supporting the travel and intellectual exchange of academic members, both national and international, through the Infosys Foundation-ICTS Excellence Grant and Infosys Foundation-ICTS Visitor Fellowship.

Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics (IUCAA), Pune : For strengthening research work through thematic training workshops, for international collaborations and for offering PhD / post-doctoral fellowships.

Harish-Chandra Research Institute, Allahabad : For providing additional scholarships for over 25 doctoral students during their final year.

Healthcare

Karnataka Chinmaya Seva Trust, Bangalore: To support the histopathology unit at the Chinmaya Mission hospital, Bangalore, benefiting over 300 patients with an in-house histopathology-processing unit.

Vittala International Institute of Ophthalmology, Bangalore: For augmentation of cataract surgical services, provision of diagnostic and treatment equipment for diabetic retinopathy at the Ramakrishna Mission Hospital, Itanagar, along with enhancing the facilities at the blood bank at the District Hospital, Ziro, Lower Subansiri, Arunachal Pradesh.

Asia Heart Foundation, Kolkata: To facilitate affordable and accessible healthcare with aggressive encouragement for rapid adoption of robotics in surgeries along with providing training to surgeons in the use of robots.

Sankara Eye Care / Sri Kanchi Kamakoti Medical Trust, Coimbatore: For the construction of the Sankara Academy of Vision-Infosys Ophthalmic Training and Research Center, to support ophthalmic research and to create a pool of qualified professionals in the industry.

Schizophrenia Research Foundation, Chennai: To provide support for persons with dementia in Chennai, with evidence-based interventions such as cognitive stimulation therapy. The grant is also used for managing training and support modules for family caregivers as well as conducting seminars for doctors and nurses in dementia care.

Ramakrishna Mission Hospital, Itanagar: Towards the infrastructure development efforts of a charitable hospital in Itanagar that can support over 742 patients every day.

Art and culture

The Sanket Trust, which runs the Ranga Shankara theatre in Bangalore: Towards a one-time grant for their corpus fund to make affordable world-class theatre space available to the amateur theatre community and art-loving audiences.

The Raja Dinkar Kelkar Museum, Pune: Towards development and maintenance of the museum that hosts 21,000 priceless artifacts representing historic Indian culture and traditions.

Sree Ramaseva Mandali, Ramanavami Celebrations Trust, Bangalore: Towards a one-time grant for their corpus

fund to support the National Music Festival and Sree Ramanavami celebrations conducted every year.

India Foundation for the Arts, Bangalore: Towards connecting the Mir musicians from the Pugal village to other artists across 10 villages in the Bikaner district of Rajasthan and providing performance spaces for them to showcase their work.

Destitute care

Society for Assistance to Children in Difficult Situations (SATHI), Bangalore: Towards rescue and resettlement of runaway and missing children, and children separated from their families found on railway platforms and left in government children homes. Over the next two years, SATHI will conduct rescue and restoration of children from Delhi, Pune and Yeshwanthpur (Bangalore) railway stations.

Sister Nivedita School, Kolkata: Towards a corpus fund for ensuring equity in education by imparting quality education and higher values to the girl child from Class I to X.

Khushi Trust, Raichur: For the empowerment of women through the Nava Jeevana Mahila Okkoota (NJMO) working towards curbing the exploitation of women, preventing child marriages, ensuring women and children under difficult circumstances get the support they need, along with enabling education of economically poor students.

Ramakrishna Mission, Belur: For the renovation of old-age homes run by the Mission at two centers. The grants would be used to provide amenities that would benefit elder residents and their attendants at these homes.

Ramakrishna Sevashrama, Pavagada: Towards a corpus fund for fodder distribution in order to help farmers affected by drought to support and protect their livestock.

Rural development

Society for Education, Action and Research in Community Health (SEARCH), Gadchiroli: Towards strengthening NIRMAN, a youth leadership initiative that works in the areas of effective handling of programmatic and managerial responsibilities through capacity-building across the state of Maharashtra.

Ramakrishna Mission, Aalo: For a corpus grant to support their education program in the Aalo region of Arunachal Pradesh including provision of smart classes, providing school buses and mobile dispensary facilities covering over 2,400 tribal students in the remote region.

ICT Infracon LLP, Ahmedabad: Towards a corpus fund for the creation of a database of all children in the age group of 0-15 years covering rural areas of Karnataka for tracking health and academic progress until they attain vocational or professional qualification. This initiative envisions providing equitable opportunities to an estimated number of three million children across the state.

Shivaganga Samagra Gramvikas Parishad, Indore: To support their work on the sustainable development of 1,300 tribal villages of Jhabua-Alirajpur districts of Madhya Pradesh and to run skill development programs that empower the tribal youth.

IIMPACT, Gurgaon: For supporting remote learning centers for a year that use innovative education techniques and oral methods like songs and poems. The effort has mobilized and motivated 321 non-school going girls in 15 villages of Gajapati district in Odisha and Jaipur district in Rajasthan.

Some of the other projects that were taken up during the year were the setting up of tiger enclosures at the Bannerghatta National Park near Bangalore, construction of toilets in various schools across Mysore, a library construction at Boodikote and compound wall construction at a school in Kuppam.

Visit the Infosys Foundation website for more details – https://www.infosys.com/infosys-foundation

Lakshmeshwar Utsav: Restoring a lost glory

At least 120 artists from Karnataka came together in March this year for the Infosys Foundation Lakshmeshwar Utsav organized at the Someshwara archaeological complex in the town of Lakshmeshwara in the Gadag district of the state. The event was a recognition of the extensive archaeological restoration done at the premises through the monetary support provided by the Infosys Foundation. The three-day event celebrated history with traditional forms of dance and music that reflect India's rich and diverse culture – presented here through a series of photographs.

1. The restored Someshwara archaeological complex at Lakshmeshwara

2. Residents of the town participate in the procession as part of the Utsav

3. The artists of Sri Jaikisan Cultural and Folk Kala Sangha performed the ancient Dollukunitha folk dance from Karnataka

4. Hindustani-Carnatic jugalbandi, featuring Hindustani vocalist Pandit Vinayak Torvi and Carnatic vocalist Vidwan S. Shankar, accompanied by Pandit Rajendra Nakod on the tabla, Pandit Sudhanshu Kulkarni on the harmonium, Vidwan B. R. Srinivas on the mridangam, Vidushi Charulatha Ramanujam on the violin, and Siddarth on the tanpura

5. Sitar jugalbandi by Ustad Rafique Khan and Ustad Shafique Khan

6. *Thousands of people attended the Utsav at the Someshwara archaeological complex*

7. *Bharatanatyam recital presented by the Parinithi Kala Kendra from Sagar, under the direction of M. Gopal*

8. *Sugama sangeetha presented by vocalists Vidvaan Srikanth Kulkarni, Vidushi Mathura Dixit, Vidushi Apoorva Grampurohit and Vidwan Anil Desai, with accompaniment by Vadiraj Nimbargi on the violin, Sridar Mandre on the tabla, Nagaraj Hegde on the flute, and Ashwin Walavalkar on the keyboard*

9. *Still from 'Sathi Parvathi', a Bharatanatya Nrithya Roopaka presented by Vidushi Sahana Bhat and troupe from Hubballi*

10. *Artists attending the art camp held as part of the Utsav display the works made during the camp*