Infosys Foundation Report
2017-18

THE SMILES COUNT, THE MILES DON'T

You can't cross the sea by merely standing and staring at the water."

— Rabindranath Tagore

CHAIRPERSON'S MESSAGE

Distances vanish when change is the mission

As the Infosys Foundation bids goodbye to another year of successful interventions, we realize the truth of George Bernard Shaw's saying, "Progress is impossible without change." With every life we changed in a big or small way this year, we saw the promise of progress for the country.

Our mission has always been to take irreversible development to the most backward and downtrodden sections of society. This year, the importance of our core areas of functioning – healthcare, education, destitute care, hunger eradication, rural development, and arts and culture – was reiterated through projects aimed at bringing more people in remote regions into the development bracket, while continuing to work in our areas of strength.

In our years of working in the healthcare sector, we realized that one of the most pressing problems in our hospitals was the lack of shelter for patients who come from far. Some of them don't need admission to the hospitals but need to stay close for the duration of treatment. For such patients, we built our first *dharmashala* for the Kidwai Cancer Institute way back in 2001. On a recent visit to the hospital, I saw how the *dharmashala* was helping many but I could also see that it was not enough. So we decided to build another one this year in Bengaluru, one in Kalaburagi and one in Chandigarh.

Firmly believing that distance should not hinder us from taking up projects, we reached some of the most neglected regions and communities in the northern and eastern parts of the country. This year, in partnership with dedicated NGOs, we tapped into all possible methods – from spring water rejuvenation to gravity-fed water supply – to conserve water and make it accessible in Jharkhand, Andhra Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh. We also supported projects to provide year-round irrigation to farmers so that they can be their own agents of freedom from poverty.

Education is often the key to this freedom. Thanks to the commitment and vision of a few organizations, children in the remote villages of Assam's Brahmaputra valley are receiving education and skill-training. Many of these children are the first generation in their families to go to school. In other states like Rajasthan, Punjab, Andhra Pradesh and Kerala, we are providing midday meals and drinking water to children, and sanitary kits to girl students.

Continuing our support to higher education, we have joined hands with world-class institutions like the Harish-Chandra Research Institute, Allahabad, Presidency University, Kolkata, and the International Centre for Theoretical Sciences, Bengaluru, to encourage quality research and increase exposure to knowledge from around the world through chair professorships and lectures.

Many people ask me what keeps us going. It is the hard work of our volunteers, the wishes of our trustees, advisors and friends, and, above all, our incredible team at the Foundation, whose collective focus and efficiency make every project possible. But there is a simpler answer to the question. Every time we look back on our journey of over two decades, we see the smiles we have generated along the way. And each smile counts; it gives us the strength to cross a hundred miles in the journey ahead.

Sudha Murty

Chairperson, Infosys Foundation

CONTENTS

TRUSTEES

Special Feature
THE AKSHAYA PATRA FOUNDATION

Infosys Foundation began its association with The Akshaya Patra Foundation (TAPF) in 2004 for the midday meal scheme. Along the years, the Foundation continued the partnership through projects expanding the midday meal scheme, distribution of drinking water and sanitary kits in schools, and disaster relief programs. This year, the Foundation and TAPF joined hands for a mega kitchen project, in Kandi, Telangana that will be able to prepare meals for 1,00,000 schoolchildren at a time.

Kandi kitchen

Sanitary kit distribution

Fighting hunger with hygienic and healthy meals

Infosys Foundation and TAPF have completed the construction of a state-of-the-art, fully automated kitchen in the Kandi village of Medak district in Telangana. The kitchen has the capacity to cook midday meals for 1,00,000 children every day. The facility was inaugurated on March 30, 2018. Complete with the most modern features, the kitchen is set to herald a trend of hi-tech kitchens, which will save effort, time and costs, while providing nutritious and hygienic meals to our schools.

Objective

To build end-to-end infrastructure to reduce cooking time for a large number of meals

To optimize the hygiene level at every step, from raw materials to cooked food

Infrastructure

Total area : 64,438 sq.ft.

A two-storeyed building with a kitchen block and utility areas for other services.

Preparation processes take place on the first floor while the food is cooked on the ground floor.

Preparatory section

Contains vegetable cleaning machines, cutting machines, wet grinders, storage rooms etc.

Cooking section

Has an array of rice and dal cauldrons and gravity chutes to feed raw material to cauldrons

Packing system

Equipped with roller slat conveyor and auto cooked-food-to-vessel dispensing system. It also moves the packed distribution vessels to the vehicle loading bay with little human effort

Features

Silikal flooring for wet kitchen areas; this will not harbor bacteria and molds, being a non-porous, pinhole-free flooring surface. Easily cleanable and slip-resistant

Hybrid briquette-fired boilers for steam generation; 90% reduction in refractory, up to 40% reduction in footprint, and fuel flexibility between biomass and fossil fuels

Condensate water recovery system from cookers to water tanks of the boilers

Sewage treatment plant with latest membrane technology

Double-jacketed cookers, where steam will not get in contact with food directly. Improves taste as aroma will be retained within the cooker

Waste-to-energy biogas plant with 1-ton capacity, at full operational capacity, can generate up to 25KW per hour electricity

Reverse osmosis water treatment system with an output yield of above 90%

Centralized high-pressure-water cleaning system to wash distribution vessels and floors; saves water by 40%

Saving time

On an average, the Akshaya Patra kitchens take around five hours to cook 1,00,000 meals. In the Kandi kitchen, this time is expected to reduce by 10%.
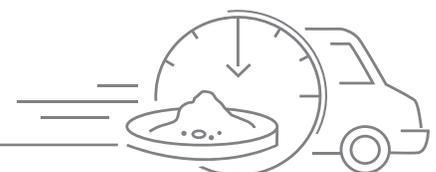
Health in a kit, to keep girl students in school

TAPF's midday meal scheme reaches around 70,000 girl children in Jaipur. It was observed that many girls, studying in Class 6 and above, were finding it difficult to attend school during their menstrual periods. TAPF, with the help of Infosys Foundation, decided to launch a project of distributing sanitary kits to these girl students. The project began in January 2015.

Problems faced by students

- Cannot afford to buy sanitary napkins
- Parents do not believe in the use of the branded products, prefer cloth instead
- Forced to keep away from school to avoid embarrassing situations
- Lack of awareness
- Lack of separate and clean toilets
- Regular periods of absence, leading to dropout

Project mission

To provide sanitary kits, consisting of sanitary napkins and panties, and conduct counselling sessions for girls between Class 6 and Class 12

Coverage

Sanitary kits, which can be used for 12 months, are being distributed to around 20,000 girls

Impact

- Reduced instances of health issues during periods, due to increased hygiene
- Fall in absentee and dropout rates
- Boost in self-esteem of students
- Increase in concentration levels of students
- Improvement in hygiene practices of entire family, and thereby, community

Survey results

TAPF conducted a survey to analyze the impact of the sanitary kit project in schools. The survey covered **35 schools** and **380 girl students.**

96%

of the girls now use safe and hygienic sanitary napkins always

83%

students reported a crunch in resources to purchase sanitary napkins

17%

students said they face other medical issues if sanitary napkins are not available

99%

confident of attending school when using sanitary napkins and not cloth
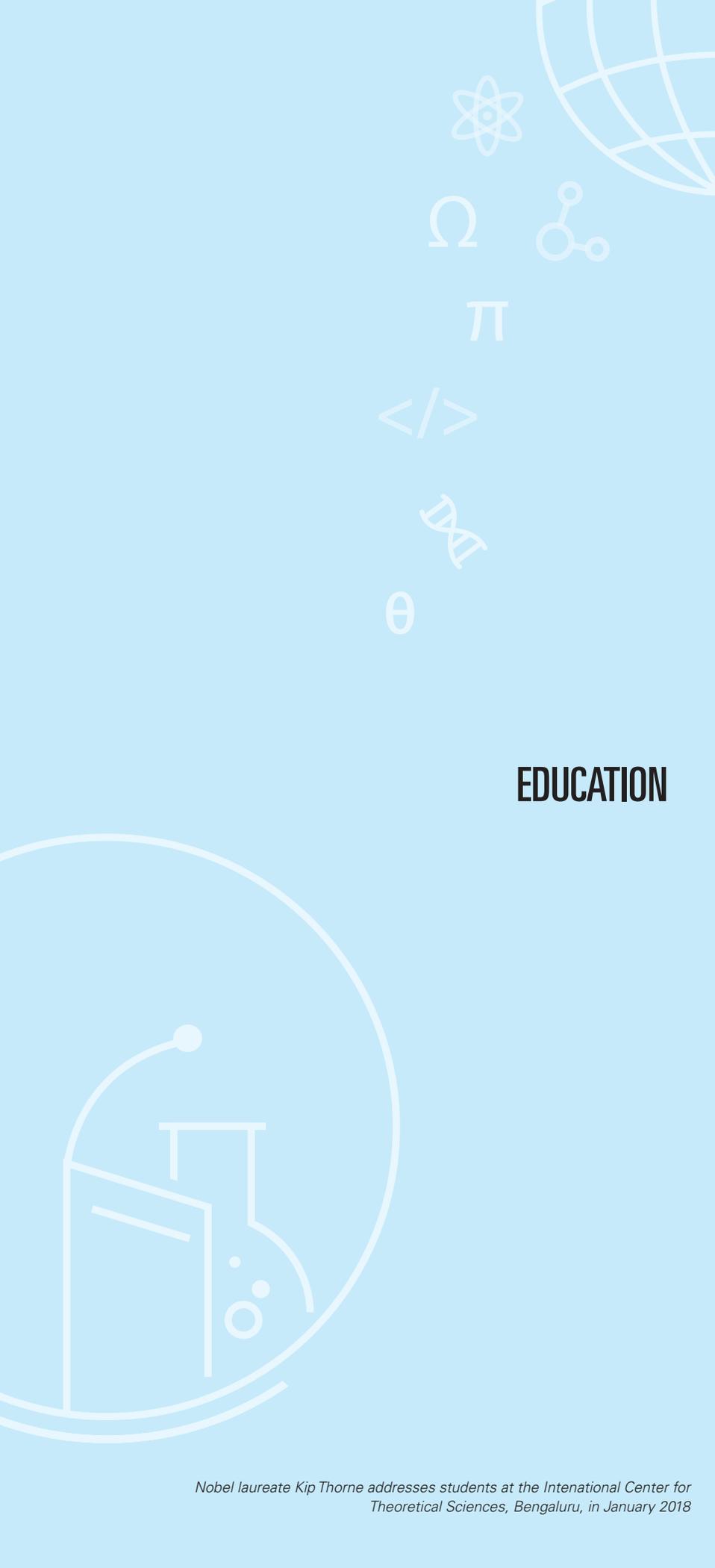
EDUCATION

Securing the future of cutting-edge research

The Union Budget 2018 has raised the spending on science by 10% to ₹53,620 crore against the previous year's budget. But even with this allocation, scientific research in India is in constant need of funds. This is where corporates can make a difference, and Infosys Foundation has been championing the cause for several years now.

The Harish-Chandra Research Institute (HRI) in Allahabad, established in 1975, is an institution where Infosys Foundation has lent a helping hand. The Foundation has funded the establishment of a chair professorship in the area of mathematics or theoretical physics. The fund is called the Infosys Endowment Fund for Mathematics or Theoretical Physics and the chair is the Infosys Chair Professorship.

Honoring excellence

The professorship is awarded to an internationally distinguished scientist and the expenses covered include remuneration, travel costs, hardware / software requirements, research costs, teaching innovations and clerical assistance.

Both the Foundation and HRI believe in the importance of training high-quality scientific manpower to meet the needs of the country. They also believe in supporting young scientists and raising the level of scientific research in India to the highest international standards. The Foundation envisages that this program of professorship will encourage high-quality research, inspirational teaching and visibility for HRI.

Padma Bhushan awardee Prof. Ashoke Sen, one of the leading string theorists in the world and a faculty member of the institute, was named the first recipient of the Infosys Chair Professorship.

Knowledge from around the world

Along with the chair professorship, Infosys Foundation has also sponsored the Infosys Distinguished Visiting Professors (for eminent senior professors) and the Infosys Visiting Professors (for younger faculty) programs at HRI. The visiting professors are chosen based on their international recognition and are expected to give a series of lectures at HRI. The grant covers airfare, local hospitality and on-campus accommodation.

Seven professors have already visited HRI as part of the Visiting Professors program. These include Prof. Simone Marzani, University of Genoa, Italy; Prof. Pasquale Di Bari, University of Southampton, England; Prof. M. Diwan, Brookhaven National Laboratory, USA; Prof. Bobby Acharya, Kings College London, UK; Prof. Ted Erler, CEICO, Prague, Czech Republic; Prof. Yuji Okawa, University of Tokyo, Japan; Prof. Yuri Nesterenko, Moscow State University, Russia. Four more professors are slated to visit in the near future.

Under the Distinguished Visiting Professor scheme, a long-term visit by Prof. Kaoru Hagiwara of KEK, Japan, and University of Wisconsin, Madison, USA, is on the cards. Prof. Hagiwara is one of the leading particle physicists in the world.

Besides encouraging high-quality research and wide exposure to knowledge from around the world, the Foundation believes that the partnership with HRI will lay a solid foundation for mathematical and theoretical physics studies in India.

Renowned scholars in Mathematics and Theoretical Physics from around the world come and deliver lectures at HRI

New amenities to rejuvenate an old seat of learning

Economist Arvind Subramanian at one of the lectures hosted by Presidency University at the renovated P.C. Mahalanobis Auditorium

A run-down laboratory at a prestigious university needed to be converted into a lecture hall, but the university required timely monetary support. Infosys Foundation sponsored the renovation and conversion of the lab into a state-of-the-art lecture theatre. Today, the P.C. Mahalanobis Auditorium at Presidency University, Kolkata, hosts eminent scholars and professors, helping the university in its endeavor to impart liberal education to everyone.

Presidency University has a 200-year history of being a center of higher learning in the eastern part of the country. It also had a rich tradition of research, matched by few universities in India. The pioneering discoveries of eminent scientists such as Jagadish Chandra Bose and Prafulla Chandra Ray were made in the laboratories of the then Presidency College. A university of this stature must keep expanding its work, and form an effective bridge between the country's past and its future.

For tomorrow's students

Infosys Foundation's association with the university began at a crucial juncture, just five years after it had been conferred the status of university in 2010. The status meant that the university could function more efficiently as a center of teaching and research in various disciplines.

The first result of the partnership between the Foundation and the university was the establishment of the Infosys Foundation Distinguished Chair Professorship of Economics that allowed the university to appoint a professor with outstanding academic record to both teach and guide research activities of the department. The Foundation's contribution helped bridge a resource gap which was restricting the university from hiring a distinguished professor at a high salary. It helped that the Foundation's goals were aligned with the university's vision of building a young, capable generation which can meet the challenges of the future.

A space to ignite minds

The P.C. Mahalanobis Auditorium, with a seating capacity of 160, was inaugurated on August 18, 2017 by M.K. Narayanan, former Governor of West Bengal and Chancellor of Presidency University. In less than a year since its inauguration, the auditorium has hosted more than 15 public lectures of different departments of the university. Some of the distinguished speakers include Romila Thapar, Arvind Subramanian and Esther Duflo.

The association of Infosys Foundation and Presidency University has benefited more than 2,700 students and faculty through lectures and academic engagements. The continued support of the Foundation would enable Presidency University to attain a level of excellence on a par with the best institutions in the world.

A fundamental partnership for Indian science

The idea to create the International Center for Theoretical Sciences (ICTS) of the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR) was born in 2001, after the success of the Strings 2001 conference at TIFR Mumbai and a visit of a group of faculty members to the Infosys Campus in Bengaluru. The former gave a boost to the confidence in the achievements of India and Indians in fundamental physics and the latter provided the assurance that institutional infrastructure and management of the highest international quality was possible in India.

ICTS began life within the TIFR facility at the campus of the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore. The new ICTS campus in Bengaluru was inaugurated on June 20, 2015. Since the first academic program in November 2007, the center has run nearly 230 programs involving more than 12,000 participants.

Bringing the best minds home

The formal association of ICTS and the Foundation began in October 2015 and currently, the Foundation supports ICTS through grants in the following projects:

- **Infosys ICTS Excellence Program:** The Foundation supports the travel to ICTS of many international visitors as well as that of ICTS researchers to conferences and meetings outside India. This is a five-year grant beginning October 2015.

- **Infosys ICTS Named Lecture Series:** ICTS's flagship lecture series is now the Infosys-ICTS Chandrasekhar, Ramanujan and Turing Lecture series. They are respectively in the physical sciences, mathematical sciences and biological / computer sciences. These lectures have been delivered by Nobel laureates, Fields medalists and other distinguished scientists and are organized around a discussion meeting featuring many other experts working in the area covered by the lecture. Some of the luminaries who have delivered lectures as part of this series include the 2017 Physics Nobel laureate Kip Thorne; Nathan Seiberg of the Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton; Katepalli Raju Sreenivasan of NYU Tandon School of Engineering; David B. Kaplan of the University of Washington, USA; and Paul B. Rainey of the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Biology, Germany.

- **Infosys ICTS International Exchange Program:** This grant supports speakers and participants from India to travel to the Strings 2018 meeting in Okinawa, Japan. It also facilitates other international group collaborations and meetings such as giving additional support for the 12th Kavli Asian Winter School in Strings, Particles and Cosmology held in January 2018 at ICTS.

- **Infosys Homi Bhabha Chair Professorship:** The Foundation also supports the research and mentoring activities of the holder of this Chair Professorship.

Kip Thorne, winner of the 2017 Nobel Prize in Physics, delivered a public lecture in ICTS in January 2018

Steadfast focus on goals

The Infosys Foundation grants have enhanced the ability of ICTS to achieve its three main goals:

- Conducting programs that bring together scientists, researchers and students from all over the world under one roof

- Boosting in-house research in the theoretical sciences to come up with path-breaking ideas from India, and

- Steering science outreach to stimulate the scientific spirit in the young minds of India.

Encouraging in-house research in theoretical sciences is one of the shared goals of the Foundation and ICTS

The year that was

Infosys Foundation believes every child in India must be educated. To make that possible, the Foundation has supported projects which provide education, create infrastructure for schools and colleges, supply material needed by students, and encourage high-quality research in the country. These are some of the Education projects the Foundation supported in 2017-18:

International Institute of Information Technology (IIIT), Bengaluru

Granted funds for the construction of an academic block in IIIT-B

Ellen Sharma Memorial Trust, Chennai

Funded the construction of the compound wall at the Trust's school in Shollinganallur, Chennai

Bharatheeya Vidyanikethan, Thiruvananthapuram

Funded the construction of classrooms in the school

Mamata Trust, Hyderabad

Sponsored educational activities for poor children through Infosys' CSR wing in Hyderabad

Public Health Foundation of India, New Delhi and Hyderabad

Provided scholarships to students in the Master of Public Health program in New Delhi and Hyderabad

Kailash Satyarthi Children's Foundation, Bihar and West Bengal

Supported the establishment of child-friendly, model villages in Bihar to encourage empowerment and establish a healthy environment over a 2-3-year period

Ramakrishna Mission, Shivanahalli, Karnataka

Funded scholarships for girl students in Ramakrishna Mission-run schools in rural Bengaluru

Prekshaa Pratishtana, Bengaluru

Granted funds for the publication of research by scholars on Indian culture

Bharatha Samskriti Prathisthana, Bengaluru

Provided funds for the sustenance and scaling up of project materials related to the study of Sanskrit

Parikrma Foundation, Bengaluru

Sponsored a special screening of inspirational films for underprivileged children in Bengaluru

HEALTHCARE

Vittala International Institute of Ophthalmology, Bengaluru, screens schoolchildren for eye ailments and provides them with comprehensive eye care

Where darkness gives way to light

According to the National Programme for Control of Blindness in India, there are 12 million blind people in India, a little less than one-third of the global total of 39 million. A significant part of the Indian total comprises children. Estimates vary, but one suggests that there are as many as 6,80,000 blind children in the country. In many of these cases, the lack of timely treatment led to the condition. But institutions like the Vittala International Institute of Ophthalmology (VIIO), established in 2001 with the mission that 'no one shall go blind for want of money or lack of care', is carrying on the crusade against blindness in India. Infosys Foundation joined hands with VIIO in 2012 with a corpus fund to support free eye surgeries.

The new OT complex at VIIO has the latest surgical equipment

Children first

The Foundation has supported VIIO in its efforts to provide quality eye care to the poor. Last year, the organizations joined forces for the Comprehensive Child Eye Care Programme, which aims to screen 15,000 children for eye ailments and provide them with comprehensive eye care, over a period of three years. The project objectives are:

- To identify all children with visual impairment in a selected underserved population.
- To provide free medical or surgical treatment for children with visual impairment.
- To provide rehabilitation to those children with irreversible blindness.

So far, more than 8,000 schoolchildren have been screened, mostly from government schools, in economically backward areas. A total of 520 pairs of spectacles have been provided free of cost to children with refractive errors and 66 children needing treatment in the base hospital have been treated for free.

The Foundation's funding supports the salaries of an optometrist, three health workers and 60% time of a pediatric ophthalmologist; equipment needed to treat the children, and spectacles for children with refractive errors.

It has been observed that a large number of patients drop out at the post-screening stage, without undergoing surgery and rehabilitation. Reasons include lack of awareness and education, as well as the cost of surgeries and follow-up treatment. The project aims to address these problems to ensure that the process from screening to diagnosis is followed to completion.

Mission with a vision

The Foundation also funded the upgrade of the OT complex at the main hospital in Bengaluru with a state-of-the-art air handling unit, central air conditioning and latest surgical equipment. More than 1,000 surgeries have already been performed in the new OT complex.

The initial project of the Foundation with VIIO for free eye surgeries continues. The lack of governmental support for complex retinal surgeries for conditions such as diabetic retinopathy and retinal detachment deterred people from returning for treatment. The Foundation's support helped VIIO extend care to these cases. More than 450 complex retinal surgeries have been performed under this program.

As VIIO works towards reducing the number of blind people in the country, Infosys Foundation joins in to ensure that quality care and treatment reaches every individual, irrespective of their social or economic status.

Vittala Institute's Comprehensive Child Eye Care Programme is aimed at reaching 15,000 children over three years

A refurbished space for children to recover

If hospitals in India have a lighter burden of patients to cope with, delivery of healthcare services would be smoother and more improved. Unfortunately, that picture is still more a vision than reality, as hospitals struggle to accommodate growing numbers of patients on a daily basis. In this scenario, infrastructure becomes a big challenge and maintenance an even bigger one. Infosys Foundation has always stepped in with additional help for maintenance of resources and facilities it helped build because it is important for projects to be sustainable in the long run.

This year, the Foundation decided to dedicate funds for the upgrade and renovation of the existing pediatric ward building of Capital Hospital, Bhubaneswar. The Foundation had sponsored the construction of the building in 2003, the year when the association between the two organizations had begun.

Tackling the numbers

Capital Hospital was established as a state-run hospital in 1954 with 60 beds in the capital of Odisha. Now, it is a 563-bed facility and caters to a population of around 20 lakh in Bhubaneswar and five adjoining districts. It offers round-the-clock specialist services in almost all departments.

The association between the Foundation and Capital Hospital began with the donation of a CT scan machine by the Foundation. There was an urgent need for a pediatric unit in the hospital as a sizeable number of its patients were children, and yet, there was no dedicated building for them. In 2003, with funds from the Foundation, a 150-bed pediatric unit, along with auxiliary services was built. Fifteen years later, the building needed maintenance and again, the Foundation decided to help.

Maintenance is key

The Foundation helped repair the walls, ceiling, bathrooms and toilets, as well as in the renovation of the rooms, and installation of new gates. Slabs were laid over sanitation lines and old and broken doors were replaced. Fixtures such as fans, lights and wires that needed to be changed were replaced or repaired. Inner flooring and wall tiling, and painting were also done. Colorful graffiti was introduced on the walls to make it a lively and cheerful space for recuperating children. The courtyard was also cleaned up and painted. The work was completed in about eight months and the refurbished facility was ready by November 2017.

Infosys Foundation recognizes the far-reaching impact of the services offered by Capital Hospital. As it also believes in creating facilities which will stand the test of time, the Foundation was happy to be involved in the maintenance of the facility that has been catering to thousands of children and can help many more in need.

Capital Hospital, Odisha

The pediatric ward building at Capital Hospital (above) was built in 2003. The building, both exterior (left) and interior, were renovated in 2017

Tackling tumors with the best of technology

A little help goes a long way. The smallest intervention can make a huge difference to an ailing person, and generate hope in the most desperate situations. When Infosys Foundation steps in with infrastructural support – be it accommodation for families of patients, or an essential piece of equipment – it caters to the present and creates hope for the future.

This year, the Foundation sponsored the procurement of an advanced neurosurgical operating microscope at the Government Medical College, Thiruvananthapuram. The long wait list for surgery at the Department of Neurosurgery made it imperative for the hospital to purchase the equipment, and the Foundation's help came at a timely juncture.

The Government Medical College, Thiruvananthapuram, was established in 1951. Since then, it has grown incrementally – in area, number of departments, number of patients and infrastructure. But for a hospital in India, no amount of resources is ever enough, because the number of patients to attend to is always higher. Recognizing the need for better infrastructure, the Foundation tied up with the Medical College for the first time in 2016-17, for a two-level skywalk / corridor connecting the main hospital block with the new outpatient block, scanning rooms and blood bank. And again, when the Foundation was made aware of the need for operating equipment, it decided to extend its help.

Better surgeries, shorter queues

The Department of Neurosurgery at the Medical College handles about 1,500 surgeries every year. The existing operating facility consisted of an outdated operating microscope that was nearly 20 years old. It did not have vascular and tumor fluorescence features, HD quality visuals or recording facility to teach students. With only one microscope, the wait list of patients for surgery went up to three months, and threatened to grow longer, since the department caters to all types of brain and spine surgery (except for epilepsy and movement disorders). The hospital is also the only one in Thiruvananthapuram and Kollam districts to offer free-of-cost neurosurgery.

The new neurosurgical operating microscope installed recently can delineate tumor in the brain using yellow fluorescence, thus preventing undue damage. It can also detect patency of blood vessels after aneurysm surgery with fluorescence. Along with better visibility, magnification and lighting to help surgeons, it also has HD quality recording and visual display to help in training students. A minimum of 500 patients are expected to benefit from the use of the equipment every year. It will also help in training 18 neurosurgery residents of the department in advanced neurosurgical procedures.

Both the Foundation and the Medical College believe that state-of-the-art treatment should not be denied to patients just because they belong to economically weaker sections. Early surgery also helps in critical cases. With the Foundation's support, the Medical College can now perform neurosurgeries faster and more efficiently. Just as the skywalk made life easier for almost 2,000 patients every day, the operating microscope is set to make a bigger difference to many more.

The new neurosurgical operating microscope at the Government Medical College, Thiruvananthapuram, is expected to help more than 500 patients a year

The year that was

Since its inception, Infosys Foundation has worked diligently towards extending the reach of primary healthcare to everyone. It has expanded its vision, believing healthcare or its quality should not depend on an individual's economic status. Here are some of the projects in Healthcare that the Foundation invested in this year:

St. Jude India ChildCare Centre, New Delhi

Granted funds to provide holistic support to the families of young cancer victims residing at the centre's facilities

Mamata Trust, Hyderabad

Sponsored a sanitation project through Infosys' CSR wing in Hyderabad

Rashtrotthana Blood Bank, Hubballi, Karnataka

Provided funds for the procurement of medical equipment for the blood bank facility

Vivekananda Ashrama, Shyamalatal, Uttarakhand

Sponsored the distribution of free medicine to poor people in the region

Arpan Trust, Chandigarh

Donated wheelchairs for disabled people through Infosys' CSR wing in Chandigarh

Minto Eye Hospital, Bengaluru

Donated funds for the procurement of toys for the common areas of the hospital and for painting themed graffiti on the walls

NIMHANS, Bengaluru

Sponsored the publication of a book on mental health and illness

ART AND CULTURE

Artists of Sri Padma Bhaskara Kala Kendra perform a Bharatanatyam recital at the Puligere Utsav in Lakshmeshwara, Karnataka, in January 2018
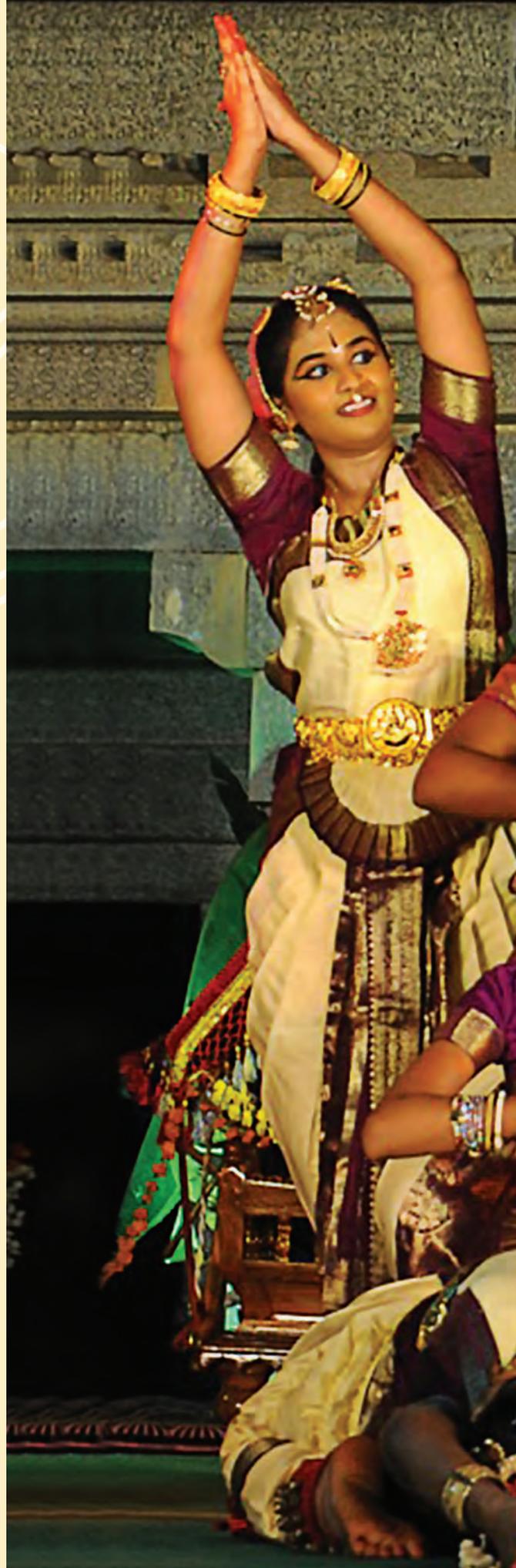
Past meets present at restored heritage site

In 2015, Infosys Foundation supported the renovation of the Someshwara archaeological complex in Lakshmeshwara in Gadag district of Karnataka. With the restoration, a temple that was built 1,600 years ago was returned to its original glory, and to the people. The restored complex has, for three years now, also been the site of a cultural confluence, where artists of the region showcase their talent for the world to see. The annual festival is the fruit of the partnership between the Foundation and Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan (BVB).

The first Infosys Foundation Lakshmeshwara Utsav or Puligere Utsav was held after the restoration of the temple complex. Subsequently, the second and third editions of the festival were held in the first week of January in 2017 and 2018. The festival is intended to give classical music, dance and folk arts a magnificent stage along with a platform for local talent. The three-day festival has two sessions on each day – a morning session called Udaya Raga and an evening session filled with dance and music. As the festival becomes a regular annual affair, it will also add to the appeal of the area as a tourist destination.

Classical musicians like Hindustani vocalist Pandit Shripad Hegde (above) and folk musicians like Yellamma Madar and team (right) perform at the three-day event

Carrying forward the legacy

The Hubballi-Dharwad belt of north Karnataka, where Gadag is located, is known for its artistic talent and has gifted the world some of the best Hindustani musicians such as Bhimsen Joshi, Kumar Gandharva, Mallikarjun Mansur, Basavaraj Rajguru and Gangubai Hangal. The Foundation recognized the need to carry forward this rich cultural legacy and to offer a stage to local talents so that they can continue to be based in the area and pursue their art.

The 2018 Puligere festival featured a wide spectrum of musicians, including Balachandra Nakod, Keshav Kumar Malvi, Sripad Hegde, Fayaz Khan and Shafiq Khan.

Natyakala Nivas, Nrutya Vaibhava, Sri Padma Bhaskara Kala Kendra, Nrutyangan and an Odissi dance troupe were among those who performed. The troupes came from Bengaluru, Mangaluru, Dharwad, Davanagere, Hassan, Sagara, Mysuru, Udupi, Pune and Sirsi. A total of 300 performing artists have participated in the festival over three years.

Painted history

In all three editions, there was also a special feature called 'Landscapes of Lakshmeshwara' – an artists' camp. Young and veteran artists from in and around Gadag were chosen to capture the environs of Lakshmeshwara on their canvas. This helped create a unique ambience and visual appeal for the festival.

The Foundation believes in preserving heritage structures so that future generations can also get a glimpse of the country's history and rich cultural heritage. Festivals held near heritage structures convey the message that the past and present are connected. The work is never over, because the festivals should continue, and the structures maintained properly. With able partners such as BVB, the Foundation hopes to continue working in this space.

Music as a tool for sustainable empowerment

Dapu Khan, a folk musician in Rajasthan, had to depend on his meagre earnings of ₹8,000 to ₹10,000 a month to feed his family of 11. A not-for-profit organization created a website for him so that people could directly approach him to book shows and sample his music. Within two months of the website launch, he bagged two international shows – in Germany and the US – for fees of ₹60,000 and ₹80,000, respectively. He also got two wedding shows in Rajasthan that paid him ₹45,000 and ₹40,000.

The organization that helped create Dapu Khan's website was Anahad Foundation.

Infosys Foundation, with its belief in the need to preserve folk and traditional music and encourage the younger generation to continue practicing it, is one of the initial contributors to Anahad Foundation's Equals Project in Rajasthan that took off in 2017-18.

Documenting talent

Anahad Foundation was registered in 2013 and started its work actively in 2016. Its mission has been to work for the recognition, preservation and evolution of tribal, folk and traditional music for consumption by contemporary masses. Along with research and documentation, Anahad hopes to create platforms to provide a better quality of life to the musicians and encourage the younger generation to pursue music as a profession.

The Foundation's grant was a shot in the arm for Anahad, which was able to increase its productivity by 600% in just three months. They were able to buy their own recording equipment rather than renting it and could take along more volunteers on their documentation trips so that more artists could be covered.

First among 'Equals'

The Equals Project identifies musical communities in three regions – Rajasthan, the Northeast, and the Himalayan region, and provides industry-standard production for artists belonging to these regions. A website is created for every artist group to facilitate bookings without the involvement of middlemen. The groups are then given a box with 30 CDs of their documented audio and video, business cards and a pen drive with the original files.

With Infosys Foundation's support, Anahad was able to document 14 groups covering 84 artists, creating 14 websites, and developing 28 music videos in one month alone. The documented groups include Dapu Khan, Gazi Khan, Salim Khan, Kasam Khan and Roop Swaroop Khan, and their respective troupes.

Post-documentation, Anahad asks colleges to encourage their research students to use the material for their theses. Under the Equals projects, there is also a plan for a collaboration program that will bring regional folk artists, international artists and producers / facilitators together. The result will be a music album and a video documentary series. An Equals World Festival is also being planned in Jaisalmer later this year.

Infosys Foundation always looks at sustainably empowering communities by tapping into their own talent and resources. Anahad's work to convert the intellectual property of folk musicians to tangible property, and thus making them independent and self-sustained, has found common ground with the Foundation's beliefs. The results are already showing.

Anahad Foundation conducts live recordings of the selected troupe's music to document on the website

Creating a symphony around the country

Have you ever listened to the first recording of the National Anthem by the Vishwa Bharati Chorus? Or M.S. Subbulakshmi's first ever recording, made when she was just nine years old? Now you can, thanks to the Archive of Indian Music (AIM), which restored these and many more such masterpieces from gramophone records, and digitized and archived them for future generations. Infosys Foundation, which believes in creating a culturally and artistically sound foundation for the youth, joined AIM in its efforts to rescue these gems from flea markets, shanties and amateur record collectors.

AIM was set up in 2011 with a mission to preserve and disseminate early gramophone recordings of Indian classical and folk music, theatre and cinema recordings, and make these freely accessible through open source. It also seeks to create a first-of-its-kind ethnographic archive of the music, dance, traditions and heritage of indigenous communities of India.

A record of regions and music

Infosys Foundation began to support AIM in two of its big projects in 2017. Continuing its efforts to digitize gramophone records, AIM has begun the acquisition of 1,000 records. Along with creating a catalogue of high-fidelity recordings, the Archive is also planning to develop mobile and digital applications and other modes of interactive technologies to help these recordings reach the youth.

The second AIM project, which resonates with the vision of the Foundation to reach out to marginalized communities and bring them into the mainstream, is the creation of

an ethnographic archive of Northeast India, beginning with a pilot project in Assam. The Northeast is a hotbed of tribal traditions, and the music of the region richly reflects this. For instance, most of the musical instruments of the region are made from indigenous trees, animal skin and other locally-available materials. However, the music is on the verge of extinction owing to lack of access, awareness, and apathy of the authorities.

AIM attempts to rectify this by creating a first-of-its-kind archive, involving extensive field recordings, to document artists and instrument makers in their original habitats. The Foundation believes this project will provide much-needed exposure to these forms of music and encourage the artists to continue in the profession.

Why tradition matters

AIM has planned to cover all eight northeastern states, spending around 6-8 months for each. It has the experience of successfully completing a similar project cataloguing the music of the Bauls in West Bengal. The groundwork to capture the traditions of the three largest tribal communities of Assam – Bodo, Rabha and Tiwa – is under way. Following this, there will be audiovisual and photographic documentation of the folk and ethno-musical traditions such as *Kamrupi Lokageet* and *Oja Pali.*

Infosys Foundation, since its inception, has supported struggling artists and worked towards creating platforms across the country for folk art, dance and music. AIM's effort to preserve the tradition of an entire region, rich in tribal influences, furthers the Foundation's original vision.

In one of its earlier projects, the Archive of Indian Music documented and catalogued the music of the Bauls of West Bengal

The year that was

Infosys Foundation has always been a crusader for traditional arts, and the sustenance of these forms and their practitioners. Through its efforts in this space, the Foundation hopes to encourage the younger generation to take up these art forms so that they are never lost to posterity. These are some of the contributions that the Foundation made to Art and Culture in 2017-18:

Raja Dinkar Kelkar Museum, Pune

Contributed funds for the maintenance activities of the museum

Bharata-Ilango Foundation for Asian Culture, Tamil Nadu

Granted funds for the construction of the Bharata Muni Memorial near Chennai

Vasantha Vallabharaya Trust, Bengaluru

Supported the clean-up and restoration of the Vasantha Vallabha Kalyani, a pond on the complex premises

Sree Ramaseva Mandali, Bengaluru

Supported the organization of the 31-day International Music Festival and other activities

Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, Bengaluru

Granted funds for the Chitradurga cultural festival in December 2017

Subramaniam Academy of Performing Arts (SaPa), Bengaluru

Granted funds to support the teachers and trainers in SaPa

Maharashtra Niwas Building Trust, Bengaluru

Granted funds for musical and cultural activities

Prekshaa Pratishtana, Bengaluru

Donated funds to support the publication of books on art and culture

Sanket Trust, Bengaluru

Supported the maintenance activities of the Rangashankara theatre run by the Trust

Bangalore Literature Festival 2017

Supported the overall organization of the literature festival
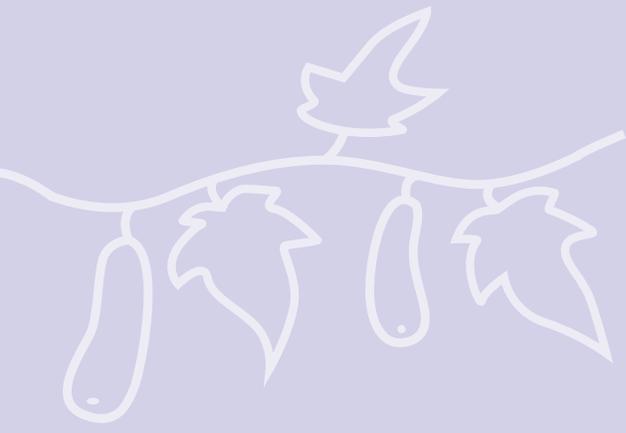
RURAL DEVELOPMENT

A seepage well built by the Collective for Integrated Livelihood Initiatives, in association with Infosys Foundation, in Palojori block of Deoghar district in Jharkhand

A vast social change with a few drops of water

"Ab yahan rukna nahi hai, aur aage jaana hai, kheti bari ab bahut achcha lagta hai." (We don't want to stop here now, we have to go ahead; we like farming very much now.)

These are the words of the women in the tribal locality of Nunurainawadih in Palojori block of Deoghar district in Jharkhand.

When an irrigation project empowers women of the village, it becomes an example of the power of a well-thought-out social intervention to bring change. Infosys Foundation's vision of creating this kind of change found realization when it joined hands with the Collective for Integrated Livelihood Initiatives (CInI), an associate organization of Tata Trusts.

A lakh for a lakh

CInI had adopted a five-year mission program, Mission 2020 – Lakhpati Kisan – Smart Villages, in April 2015. The mission intends to bring 1,01,000 households irreversibly out of poverty and develop 17 blocks as regional drivers of growth across Maharashtra, Gujarat, Jharkhand and Odisha. Infosys Foundation joined the project in April 2017 and the contribution was focused on 13,000 households in Palojori block of Deoghar district and Jama block of Dumka district in Jharkhand.

Mission 2020 is being tracked using several indicators: Whether all households are part of sustainable and self-managed community institutions; whether there is a cadre of community leaders, particularly women; whether sustainable market-linked production clusters are being established around commodities; increased area under irrigation for households, and so on. The Foundation laid emphasis on creating a water resources infrastructure linked with technologies for water management to ensure irrigation through the year for at least 40 decimal land (approximately 0.40 acres) of each household.

The water infrastructure created includes: seepage wells with lifting devices (either solar or diesel pump sets), river-stream-based micro lift irrigation; farm ponds or water bodies and micro drip irrigation and mulching for better water management.

Improving lives and livelihoods

CInI's mission to create better livelihoods and improve the lives of tribal communities struck a common chord with Infosys Foundation. The Foundation appreciated CInI's sustainable and focused measures to ensure that the households have assured income round the year. For instance, the investment towards developing water structures helped the community not only monetarily but also in motivational terms. The farmers who installed drip at initial stages are becoming change makers in the region by spreading awareness about its advantages.

As of today, 22 seepage wells have been created by CInI as part of the agreement with Infosys Foundation. This reaches 319 households. The drip irrigation method has been adopted by 77 households, allowing the farmers to cultivate *rabi* crops in addition to *kharif* crops. Also, more land is being irrigated now than earlier. Excavations are under way to create 56 ponds.

With proper drip irrigation and increased area under irrigation, farmers' incomes have grown 1.3 times. The involvement of women in farming and other activities is another important marker of the sustainable social change. The Foundation's support has been instrumental in strengthening the action on the ground in the Lakhpati Kisan programme.

Collective for Integrated Livelihood Initiatives intends to bring one lakh households out of poverty by providing sustainable methods of income generation

The bucket stops here

The Visakha Jilla Nava Nirmana Samithi's efforts have ensured that women who used to walk miles every day to get water now just have to go down the street for it

When girls of a village are forced to leave school so that they are at hand to fetch drinking water from miles away, it only shows how dire the situation is. The men go to work and the women are left the job of fetching water for the entire household. Sometimes, they end up spending seven hours getting the water required for the family.

For around 100 villages and 25,000 people in Narsipatnam, Andhra Pradesh, this is a story of the past.

Thanks to the efforts of the Visakha Jilla Nava Nirmana Samithi (VJNNS), these villages have been getting safe drinking water at their doorstep. Infosys Foundation extended a helping hand and joined VJNNS's initiative at a time when the organization was dreaming big.

No more walking for water

VJNNS was established in 1972 in Visakhapatnam and later shifted its headquarters to Narsipatnam. It has been working on various developmental projects, such as water, sanitation, health, hygiene, education and agriculture. One of its oldest and ambitious projects is Neeru-Aaroghyam. Under this project, VJNNS has been focusing on providing safe drinking water to tribal villages using a technique

called Gravity Fed Water Supply System (GFWSS). The aim is to reach 2,000 villages, and ensure that water is available 24x7, 365 days a year without the use of electricity.

Infosys Foundation, willing to go the extra mile for organizations trying to build sustainable resources for the rural poor, was enthused by the simple yet effective method of supplying water to these villages. For both organizations, the ultimate goal is to make the villages self-sufficient using these self-governed projects.

GFWSS involves the creation of a source tank along the identified spring source, distribution-cum-filter-tank and channelizing the water using gravity to the village through pipelines. The method also encourages the protection of catchment areas by creating plantations around them. A major part of Neeru-Aaroghyam is training the villagers to effectively manage the water system by forming committees, setting up a development fund and running workshops. Training is also given on good sanitation and hygiene practices.

Women at ease

In the words of many villagers, the most satisfying impact has been on women and girl children. As water has now reached their doorstep, they don't have to walk miles to fetch water. Girls have returned to school while the women are now able to help the men in cultivation. The additional labor has led to more area being cultivated and therefore, higher incomes.

Infosys Foundation's support has helped VJNNS install GFWSS in 98 villages already and work is under way in 14 more. Another 30 are on the cards.

A sensible technique which requires minimum energy is used to create a sustainable resource that helps increase incomes and socio-economic status, and boost education. This is a perfect example of the outcome that the Foundation hopes to achieve across India in the long run.

To make a valley come alive with development

Development has taken its own time to arrive in the Brahmaputra valley of Assam, an exceptionally fertile region, but also a victim of the unpredictability of nature. Health and education have emerged as the two primary areas of concern here. For Infosys Foundation, physical distance and accessibility are of no consequence where there is a worthy cause. Once connected with two committed organizations, the Foundation wasted no time to extend its helping hand.

To prevent is to cure

Seva Bharati Purbanchal has been working in the area since 1998, concentrating on creating health awareness keeping in mind the poor healthcare infrastructure in the districts. In 2016-17, with support from the Foundation, it launched Niramaya, an ambitious project that aims to train young men and women from economically backward sections, so that they can pass on the training to the more remote rural areas and be the agents of development. The vision is to build a development model focusing on health and education, for children and adolescents in these villages.

Under the project, 200 villages have been identified in 20 districts, and 40 volunteers or Community Field Officers (CFOs) selected to run the program. Each CFO is responsible for five villages. As the first step, a baseline survey has been conducted in all the 200 villages, using a specially-developed software. To run the program smoothly, the CFOs have selected three community volunteers in each village.

Prevention and awareness-building are the focus areas of Seva Bharati Purbanchal's interventions in the Brahmaputra valley

- Focusing on prevention and awareness building, the main activities under Niramaya are as follows:
- Health screening program for children and adolescents (0-18 years)
- Life skill development program for pre-teens (6-14 years)
- Mother and infant health program (0-5 years)
- Adolescent development / self-awareness program (15-18 years)

Project Niramaya is expected to cover over 30,000 households, and on completion, would develop 200 model villages free from preventable diseases, addictions and poverty.

A school to call their own

In the Chandrapur area of the valley, the educational infrastructure owes its existence to the tireless efforts of the Shishu Shiksha Samiti. The parent body runs over 550 schools across Assam, catering to more than 1,60,000 students, of which around 25,000 belong to different tribal communities. With grants from the Foundation, Shishu Shiksha Samiti is building a school in the Hajongbori village.

Shishu Shiksha Samiti's new school building under construction in Hajongbari

In the multi-dimensional project over a 34-acre area, further plans include a hostel building, a teachers' training complex, a sports complex, a *gaushala* and a skill development centre. Thanks to the growing number of students finishing school and going on to study in the nearest college 8 kms away, connectivity with this remote village has increased. Yet another encouraging result of primary and secondary education becoming more accessible is the rise in the number of venture schools or informal schools run by degree-holders in their own villages. Besides giving a boost to the literacy rate of the state, the Shishu Shiksha Samiti schools have emerged as beacons of hope to families in the area, many of whom are sending the first generation into the school education system.

The power of education and health awareness to bring about social change cannot be overstated, and the Foundation's experience with Seva Bharati Purbanchal and Shishu Shiksha Samiti bear robust proof of this.

The year that was

Along with enriching urban society, Infosys Foundation has keenly involved itself in rural development, by supporting projects that try to create an equitable urban-rural society. In 2017-18, the Foundation aided these Rural Development projects, among others:

Mudipu road construction, Karnataka

Supported the infrastructural development of Mudipu, a remote area with poor surface transport connectivity that was posing a major hindrance to development in the area

Sahakara Mitra Samstha (Centre for Collective Development), Andhra Pradesh and Telangana

Granted funds to enhance the livelihood of the farming community in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana by adopting efficient business models and sustainable agricultural practices

Swachh Bharat, Telangana and Karnataka

Funded the construction of toilet blocks in Hyderabad and Bengaluru as part of the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan

Yojak Centre for Research and Strategic Planning for Sustainable Development, Pune

Supported project to ensure water availability and protective irrigation for farmers in the region through the year

New English Medium School, Honnavar, Karnataka

Sponsored the construction of a building of a new English medium school to encourage quality education among rural youth

NM Sadguru Water and Development Foundation, Gujarat, Rajasthan and Bihar

Provided funds for projects to improve living standards in these states

Maitreyi Gurukulam, Bantwal, Karnataka

Granted funds for buying groceries required to provide food for children at the Gurukulam

Siddivinayak Vidya Prasaraka Mandali, Goli, Karnataka

Supported the construction of school classrooms in Uttara Kannada

Government schools, Mulabagilu and Mysuru, Karnataka

Funded the construction of classrooms in the school

DESTITUTE CARE

Infosys Dharmashala-1 at the Kidwai Cancer Institute, Bengaluru,
provides boading and food for up to 300 patients

Rest and recovery under a safe roof

Does cancer have to be the end of the road? It might appear so when the diagnosis hits you. However, there are 27 Regional Cancer Centres in the country which strive to tell us otherwise. Kidwai Cancer Institute (erstwhile Kidwai Memorial Institute of Oncology) in Bengaluru, Karnataka, is one such institute. Infosys Foundation has been associated with Kidwai Cancer Institute since 2001 on a number of projects.

The Foundation first offered its support to the institute through the establishment of Infosys Foundation Dharmashala-1. Kidwai Cancer Institute is a 650-bed facility that is almost always full, given that patients come from as far as the Northeast. It offers free treatment for people below the poverty line and affordable treatment for others. There are many ambulatory patients who do not require admission but need to be in the vicinity to be able to return to the hospital for follow-ups and continuing treatment. The *dharmashala* solved a long-standing problem for these patients and their families.

The importance of staying close

The first *dharmashala* had a capacity of 300 patients, with an attendant accompanying each patient. The dormitory stay and food are free of cost and patients can stay for the prescribed time of treatment. The ever-increasing number of patients at the hospital led to the idea of building another *dharmashala* of similar capacity.

Infosys Foundation Dharmashala-2, to be named 'Asare Infosys Dharmashala', is under progress. Construction began in mid-2017 and work has been progressing at a rapid pace. The *dharmashala* will have dormitories for male and female patients. In addition, single rooms will be available at a nominal charge.

The Foundation has also undertaken renovation of the first *dharmashala*, adding a lift, granite flooring for the corridor and other conveniences

to allow for smooth movement within the facility, especially of wheelchairs and stretchers.

Housing solutions

Along with the *dharmashalas*, the Foundation has also sponsored the construction of an operation theatre (OT) complex at Kidwai. The complex, which is being built on the second floor of the Jindal block on campus, will have five major operation theatres, an ICU, and associated services. An additional OT complex had become a dire need in the light of the rapidly-advancing nature of the disease, and the high footfall of patients waiting for surgical procedures at the hospital. Almost 90% of the work of the complex has been completed. Once complete, the OT complex will be able to conduct 40-50 surgeries a day.

Apart from the Bengaluru projects, the Foundation has also funded the construction of a *dharmashala* at the Kalaburagi branch of the Kidwai Institute. The Kalaburagi branch is frequented by patients from the Hyderabad-Karnataka region. The *dharmashala* will be called Infosys Dharmashala Kalaburagi.

Infosys Foundation, through timely interventions, has tried to address the lack of infrastructure that is one of the biggest challenges of the Indian healthcare system. The shelters and facilities like the ones at the Kidwai Institute bring relief to patients and families who walk in through the gates hoping for cure and comfort.

Infosys Foundation Dharmashala-1 was built at the Kidwai Cancer Institute in Bengaluru in 2001. Work on a second dharmashala (top right) on the premises is under way

Flights from distress to safety

Migrant Workers Protection Society, Bahrain

Craft objects created by the women of the MWPS shelter on display at a Christmas exhibition

According to an International Trade Union Confederation study of 2017, an estimated 2.1 million migrant domestic workers continue to risk severe labor exploitation in the Gulf countries (Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates). Common forms of exploitation include verbal and physical abuse (including sexual abuse), non-payment, partial payment or delayed payment of salaries, extreme work hours, and even confinement.

Among the Gulf countries, Bahrain alone has more than 1,05,200 domestic workers, making up 12.8% of the country's workforce. Over 75,000 of these workers are women, making up 42.2% of the country's female workforce. South and Southeast Asian countries, such as India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Indonesia and the Philippines, along with countries in Africa such as Ethiopia and Kenya, are the main suppliers of domestic workers to Bahrain. One of the missions of the Migrant Workers Protection Society (MWPS) of Bahrain is to help expatriate domestic workers facing exploitation and abuse to protect their human rights and ensure their way back to their native soil. Infosys Foundation provides financial assistance to MWPS towards the repatriation of domestic workers of Indian origin.

A shelter most needed

MWPS was established in April 2005, founded by a group of volunteers deeply committed to the cause of marginalized groups — a commitment that resonates strongly with the philosophy of the Infosys Foundation. Operating under the Ministry of Social Development (MoSD), Kingdom of Bahrain, MWPS has helped approximately 1,700 women who were victims of human trafficking and recruitment malpractices. The shelter run by MWPS provides free board, lodging, transportation, and medical treatment, as well as legal and financial assistance as and when required.

Once the women enter the MWPS shelter, society members liaise with the Bahrain governmental authorities and the embassies, to resolve their complaint and / or organize their repatriation. This is where the Foundation's assistance proves extremely valuable. The air tickets sponsored by the Foundation between March 2007 and January 2018 have helped a total of 140 women – belonging mainly to villages and Tier-2 cities – to safely return to their families in India.

New hopes

Through its years of association, the Foundation has become almost synonymous with this arm of MWPS's work, with the Indian women at the shelter putting their faith in what they call the "Infosys air tickets".

A testament to the long activism of organizations like MWPS, Bahrain recently adopted new labor regulations that require employers seeking to hire domestic workers to declare, among other things, the nature of the job, work and rest hours, and weekly days off. This comes as a ray of new hope for migrant workers in Bahrain, and perhaps for those in other Gulf countries too.

Besides providing free accommodation and other assistance, the MWPS shelter also provides crafts training to the women

The year that was

Infosys Foundation's support for destitute care reaches different sections of society, and helps in providing basic amenities like food and shelter to those who don't have it. These are some of the projects in Destitute Care that were supported by the Foundation in 2017-18:

Sri Ramakrishna Sevashrama, Pavagada, Karnataka

Supported the distribution of fodder for cattle to households in the region

Indian Red Cross Society, Chandigarh

Granted funds for the construction of the Red Cross serai at the Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER)

Rehabilitation and Welfare Section, Directorate of Indian Army Veterans, pan-India

Provided funds for the rehabilitation and welfare of army men and for disbursal to next of kin of martyrs and those injured in the line of duty, across the country

Society for Assistance to Children in Difficult Situation (SATHI), Bengaluru

Supported the rescue and resettlement of runaway children, and children separated from their families, living in government homes and railway platforms

Maarga, Bengaluru

Donated funds to support the education of adolescent girl children in slum areas of Bengaluru

Khushi Trust, Raichur, Karnataka

Donated towards the building of a community center for destitute persons in Raichur

World Wide Fund for Nature, Odisha

Granted funds for the conservation of Olive Ridley turtles in Odisha

Sree Chitra Poor Home, Thiruvananthapuram

Sponsored the distribution of sanitary napkins to the girl children at the home run by the Trust

IN THEIR WORDS

Infosys Foundation is proud of all its partners, who have stood by us in the journey of change. We are able to reach the most neglected and marginalized people and communities because of our partner organizations who already work with them in the remotest of locations. Here are a few testimonials that speak volumes about the work of our partners, which in turn, reflects the change the Foundation is bringing about with them:

"I got married last year. On the first day of our marriage, I spent most of my time fetching water. As we are an eight-member family, I used to carry 12 containers a day and would spent seven hours daily to fetch water. If I wanted to go to my parents' home, my in-laws would ask, who will carry water for us then? So, I would not even go to the market with my husband. After Visakha Jilla Nava Nirmana Samithi's (VJNNS) intervention, sponsored by Infosys Foundation, we have a tap near our house and we are getting water 24/7. Now, for household work and cooking, we spend only two hours. I am able to help in our farm in the remaining time. I can go to the market with my husband and once every month, I visit my parents. With water being available now through the day, we have built a toilet too. We are thinking of planting creepers on some part of the land too, for additional income.

Korra Dalamma

20, daughter-in-law in a family of eight, in Chidimetta village of Visakhapatnam district, Andhra Pradesh

"I belong to the Langha community and I started learning music at the age of 10 from my father, Ustad Nizzamuddin Langha. Along with performing with my troupe, I also teach at a community school for skill development. I believe it is my duty to teach the next generation what I know about music and life. I have also trained my two daughters in music. I believe recordings are essential for music to be widely heard. I also think fusion is the way forward and I hope my troupe's folk music reaches everyone in the world. Earlier, for every show we would get, we had to pay middlemen a huge cut. So, if the show was for ₹1 lakh, we would get only ₹25,000 at the end of it. With the help of Anahad Foundation and Infosys Foundation, we have our own website now. We don't need middlemen and we are able to get more shows, here and abroad. Our music is more accessible now. We hope to travel the whole world and spread the message of peace and love through our music.

Kasam Khan

Singer and harmonium player, Phaloudi, Rajasthan

“

I have been part of Seva Bharati Purbanchal since 2006. In 2017, when the Niramaya project began, I was selected as one of the 40 Community Field Officers, and assigned five villages. Thanks to the support of the Infosys Foundation, I received training in child health screening, seasonal mapping, resource mapping, and a host of other things, and conducted a baseline survey that included a door-to-door survey of 79 households. Besides finding out about family structures, I also had to gather minutely detailed information about accommodation types; land and livestock ownership; availability of electricity and proper washrooms; source of drinking water; food habits; fuel used in cooking; income-generating activities; access to education, healthcare facilities and community organizations; details of child health, child care, pre-teen and teen issues; constraints in cultivation and in specialized skill development; constraints in credit facility and social capital with regard to government schemes, etc.

Many a time during the survey, I was asked by the villagers about how it would benefit them. Many were reluctant to share details. But I was able to convince them that the survey was the first step in bringing all-round development to the village in the long run.

Minati Saharia Hazarika

Community Field Officer,
Biswanath district, Assam

“

We took the risk and started drip irrigation for vegetable cultivation during the last *kharif* season in 2017. We decided to listen to the advice of CInI (Collective for Integrated Livelihood Initiatives) and Infosys Foundation, and shared 20% of the total cost in the initiative. In the field where maize was cultivated, we also planted creepers such as bitter gourd, cowpea and bottle gourd. Around 0.80 acres out of the total 1 acre was covered with these plants. The work started in May 2017 and the seeds were sown in June. We spent around ₹85,000 for the whole cropping process, which included the initial investment for drip irrigation and mulching. The *kharif* crop gave us a cash profit of ₹47,000 apart from yielding vegetables for our use. We invested this money in *rabi* crops such as tomato, chilli and cabbage. This yield fetched us ₹37,000. So, totally, we made around ₹85,000 this year. Next year, we hope to become *lakhpati* farmers and continue to increase our incomes year on year so that we can make investments for asset purchases and our children's education.

Guriya Devi and Nageshwar Pandit

Farmer couple from Bhoradih village of
Palojori block of Deoghar district, Jharkhand

Notes