

Monthly Newsletter





CEO's MESSAGE

Dear Members, Stakeholders, and Donors,
Greetings from the Indian Social Responsibility Network!

I am immensely proud to share the remarkable strides ISRN has made over the month of **May 2024!**

The recent inauguration of four of our Uttam schools in Haridwar and Rishikesh, Uttarakhand, is a testament to our dedication. This achievement made possible through the generous support of the Rahee Infra Group and our relentless efforts, marks a significant milestone in our mission to provide quality education and improved STEM lab facilities to young learners. Our initiatives have transformed these schools, creating an environment conducive to learning and growth. Upgraded infrastructure, health and hygiene facilities, and technological integration have collectively contributed to reducing absenteeism and enhancing academic performance. These advancements not only address immediate needs but also equip students with essential skills for future success, setting a benchmark for educational excellence.

In parallel, our collaboration with USAID and JSI on the MOMENTUM Routine Immunization Transformation and Equity project has yielded outstanding results. In states like Nagaland, Meghalaya, and Tripura, our team has successfully administered over 1.75 lakh doses of COVID-19 vaccines and ensured 4391 doses and full immunization of 172 children in May alone. The establishment of new Model Immunization Centres, equipped with modern amenities and comprehensive services, underscores our commitment to public health and community well-being.

ISRN also continues to empower farmers through the promotion of Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) with the provision of knowledge workshops for farmers about advanced paddy cultivation techniques, enhancing productivity and sustainability. The thorough inspection by Ministry officials has validated ISRN's efforts, praising the commitment to transparency and innovative approaches.

The fourth episode in our capacity building vertical - ISRN NGO Clinic Podcast series featured Mr. Ashwani Khurana, who shared his inspiring journey and pioneering work in eco-friendly living offering valuable insights into responsible ecological practices.

As we reflect on these accomplishments, I am filled with gratitude for the unwavering support and dedication of our partners, volunteers, and community members. I humbly request all member organizations/partners to write to us at communications@isrn.in and share their accomplishments and success stories with us.

Warm regards,
Santosh Gupta,
CEO, Indian Social Responsibility Network (ISRN)



UTTAM SCHOOLS' INAUGURATION AT HARIDWAR, UTTARAKHAND

ISRN's persistent efforts and the Rahee Group's benevolent support have significantly transformed schools through several critical initiatives aimed at improving educational outcomes and student well-being. Upgraded infrastructure has created a conducive learning environment, promoting engagement and academic performance.

Health and hygiene have been prioritized with the construction of toilets and the provision of safe drinking water, reducing absenteeism. Technological integration through smart interactive panels has enhanced digital literacy, while sanitary vending machines with incinerators address menstrual hygiene management for female students. Additionally, Bala paintings enrich the cultural atmosphere, and exposure to technology and modern facilities equips students with essential skills for future academic and employment opportunities.



Inauguration of Schools Under Rahee Group's CSR Initiative: A Milestone Achievement for Indian Social Responsibility Network

The Indian Social Responsibility Network (ISRN) celebrated a significant milestone in May 2024 with the inauguration and handing over of four schools under the Rahee Group's Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative. The event, which underscored a commitment to enhancing educational infrastructure, was graced by several esteemed dignitaries, including:



Sh. Premchand Aggarwal,
Cabinet Finance Minister,
Ministry of Finance,
Government of Uttarakhand.



Dr. Vinay Prabhakar Sahasrabudhe,
Vice Chairperson, Rambhau Mhalgi
Prabodhani, Former MP, Rajya Sabha,
and President, ICCR



Dr. Ashish Gautam,
Founder,
Divya Prem Seva Mission



Pradeep Khaitan,
Managing Director,
Rahee Infratech Ltd.



Sh. Anil Khaitan,
President,
ISRN and SNK Corporation



Sh. Sanjay Chaturvedi,
Convener,
Divya Prem Seva Mission.

The inauguration ceremony included the unveiling of a commemorative stone plaque followed by a ribbon-cutting ceremony at each of the four schools, marking their transformation:

1. **Saraswati Shishu Vidya Mandir, Laksar**
2. **Shri Mithilesh Sanatan Dharm Inter College, Kankhal**
3. **Divya Bharat Siksha Mandir, Pauri Garhwal**
4. **Government Inter College Gangabhogpur, Pauri Garhwal**





Ceremony and Community Impact

The inauguration ceremony not only celebrated the infrastructural advancements but also emphasized the collaborative spirit driving the Uttam School initiative. The presence of esteemed dignitaries highlighted the commitment to providing quality education and a supportive learning environment.

The visit to Government Inter College Gangabhogpur was a key component of the day's activities, underscoring the ongoing commitment of the Rahee Group and ISRN to uplift educational standards through strategic interventions. The ribbon-cutting ceremony, the inauguration of the stone plaque, and the meaningful interactions with the school community fostered a sense of ownership and responsibility among school authorities and students, paving the way for sustained educational excellence.

CONCLUSION

The inauguration of these four schools marks a significant milestone in the collaborative efforts of the Rahee Group and ISRN. The event celebrated not only the completion of infrastructural enhancements but also heralded a promising future for the students and the school community. The initiatives undertaken have set a benchmark for educational facilities, ensuring a comprehensive approach to learning, health, and overall development. This achievement underscores the power of collaborative efforts in transforming dreams into reality and paving the way for a brighter, more inclusive educational landscape.

MOMENTUM Routine Immunization Transformation and Equity

Indian Social Responsibility Network is working with USAID on the MOMENTUM Routine Immunization Transformation and Equity project, to amplify the immunization coverage and government's immunization drive in Nagaland, Meghalaya and Tripura. Despite prevalent misconceptions and myths, the team achieved significant outreach by **engaging 9,038 individuals** through various community mobilization and awareness initiatives, such as Community/Group meetings, house-to-house visits, IPC, Miking, Father's meeting, to name a few. So far, the team has successfully administered over **1.75 lakh doses of the COVID-19 vaccines** to eligible beneficiaries. The project also supported 134 RI session sites in the month of May'24, administering **4,391 doses** and ensuring that **172 children** received full immunization. Also, ISRN developed 2 Model Immunization Centre at Jaiaw UPHC in Shillong and Nandan nagar UPHC in Agartala, where the facilities has been equipped with appropriate IEC collaterals for mass awareness and modern amenities including dedicated areas for vaccination, cold chain storage, breast-feeding and child friendly areas.

Success Story: Inauguration of Model Immunisation Center in Meghalaya

Over several months of working in Routine Immunization, the project team have observed that areas with a mix of tribal and non-tribal populations shows the highest resistance and dropout rates. One such place is Jaiaw in East Khasi Hills, which has Jaiaw Urban Primary Health Centre (UPHC) as its health facility. The project team selected this health facility, recognizing that if the facility is upgraded to a Model Immunization Centre (MIC), it could increase footfall in areas with significant LODO cases. Consequently, the ISRN and JSI teams met with the Jaiaw Medical Officer, who agreed to transform the facility into an MIC.



The inauguration of the Model Immunization Centre at Jaiaw UPHC on 10th May 2024 in Meghalaya marked a significant advancement in the state's healthcare infrastructure. This event signified the commitment of healthcare authorities to improve immunization coverage and ensure the well-being of children and communities. The ceremony began with an opening address by Dr. B. Nongrum, Medical Officer of Jaiaw UPHC, emphasizing the importance of immunization in preventing 12 vaccine-preventable diseases and safeguarding public health.

A ceremonial ribbon-cutting marked the official opening of the Model Immunization Centre, symbolizing a new chapter in the journey towards achieving universal immunization coverage in Meghalaya. Dr. Mrs. S. A. Lyngdoh, DM&HO of East Khasi Hills District, conducted the ribbon-cutting ceremony.



The Model Immunization Centre at Jaiaw UPHC is equipped with state-of-the-art infrastructure and facilities to facilitate efficient and safe immunization services. The centre features designated vaccination areas, cold chain storage facilities, waiting areas for patients, and a childcare corner and play area for children.



The Model Immunization Centre offers a comprehensive range of immunization services according to the national immunization schedule. These include vaccines for infants, children, adolescents, and pregnant women, aimed at preventing multiple diseases such as polio, measles, rubella, diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus, and hepatitis B, among others. Additionally, the centre provides catch-up vaccination sessions and promotes timely immunization through community outreach programs and awareness campaigns. The inauguration of the Model Immunization Centre at Jaiaw UPHC represents a significant milestone in Meghalaya's efforts to strengthen its immunization program and protect the health of its population.

SUCCESS STORY: ORIENTATION SESSION OF CAREGIVERS

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The team conducted an orientation and sensitization meeting for caregivers on May 23rd at Pezelietse Colony, Kohima. Thirteen caregivers and two youth leaders attended the meeting.



Additionally, the parents of a dropout child and a pregnant woman also participated. After hearing the project team on Routine immunization, the parents of the dropout child agreed to vaccinate their child, and the team decided to follow up on the family to ensure that the vaccination is completed.

Organizing an orientation program meeting for caregivers presents significant challenges. Parents often bring their children, causing distractions during the program. Moreover, scheduling was difficult as parents were busy with their daily work, necessitating evening sessions as the most convenient time for them to gather..

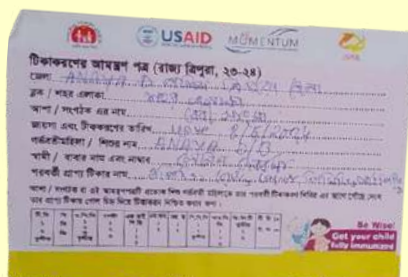


The day before the meeting, the project team was engaged in conducting IPC and informing the community about the event. Responses from parents were mixed, as the area was remote and the residents were less exposed to such initiatives. On the day of the meeting, despite heavy rain, the team successfully sensitized 15 participants. The session on immunization was particularly impactful, leading one parent to agree to vaccinate their dropout child. Participants expressed gratitude, noting that the topic was highly relevant. They agreed to share the information with their colony, neighbours, and friends.

SUCCESS STORY: ENHANCING ROUTINE IMMUNIZATION THROUGH IMMUNIZATION REMINDER CARDS IN TRIPURA

In a concerted effort to increase immunization rates and ensure timely vaccinations for every child, the MOMENTUM Routine Immunization Transformation and Equity project team in Tripura introduced an innovative approach – Immunization Reminder Cards. These cards serve as reminders for individuals to attend immunization sessions.

Prior to the implementation of Immunization Reminder Cards, the team faced challenges in achieving optimal vaccination coverage. Despite extensive awareness campaigns and healthcare outreach programs, a considerable number of children were still missing or dropping out on essential vaccinations. Challenges such as lack of awareness, parents/caregivers forgetting the immunization schedule of their child, and misconceptions about immunization presented significant barriers.



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Recognizing the need for a more targeted approach, the project team introduced Immunization Reminder Cards. These personalized cards contain essential information such as the beneficiary's name, date of birth, previous vaccinations and upcoming vaccination sessions, including date, time, and location, tailored to each child's immunization schedule. Additionally, the cards serve as tangible reminders for parents, emphasizing the importance of timely vaccinations for their child's health.

To ensure widespread adoption, the project team collaborated with local healthcare providers, and pasted Immunization Reminder Cards in front of the doors of due beneficiaries while conducting door-to-door household visits and IPC sessions, particularly targeting marginalized and underserved populations. This proactive approach ensured that beneficiaries were informed and prepared for vaccination sessions. The healthcare workers along with the project team checks the due list and fills the immunization reminder card, writing the required information on it. Till date 100 immunization reminder cards has been pasted in the catchment area of Nandannagar UPHC, Bhati Abhoynagar UPHC and Paschim Bhubanban UPHC, where the immunization coverage is low.

The positive impact of Immunization Reminder Cards has been widely acknowledged by the community, with residents expressing appreciation for the clarity and support provided. By leveraging this simple yet effective communication tool, the project team has successfully empowered parents to prioritize their children's health. The innovative design and implementation of this system have yielded positive outcomes for both patients and healthcare providers alike.



SMRC Workshop on Enhancing access and addressing barriers for promoting vaccination amongst persons with disabilities in Meghalaya

A workshop was organized by SMRC on enhancing access and addressing barriers for promoting vaccination amongst persons with disabilities in Shillong, wherein the ISRN team along with the JSI team provided the logistical and mobilization support. A total of 45 attendees comprising of officials from the health department and NGOs including ISRN, who are/have worked on disability were present.

WORKSHOP ON HCD FRAMEWORK IN NAGALAND



The ISRN team attended a one-day workshop on “Adapting Human-Centered Design (HCD) on strengthening Routine Immunization (RI)”. Organized by John Snow India Private Limited under the MOMENTUM Routine Immunization Transformation and Equity Project, the workshop took place at Hotel Vivor, Kohima, in partnership



with the Department of Health and Family Welfare, Nagaland. The significance of the HCD framework for strengthening the demand for Routine Immunization was highlighted.

After the workshop, Dr. Surbhi Seth from JSIPL visited MIC UPHC Porterlane, Kohima. She commended the ISRN team for their impressive Model Immunization Centre, noting their efficient use of limited space and attractive IEC Collaterals. Dr. Seth also engaged with healthcare staff to understand the challenges they face in providing RI services.

Formation & Promotion of Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) under the Central Sector Scheme for Formation & Promotion of 10,000 FPOs



CAPACITY BUILDING OF FARMERS

The farmers of the ISRN-promoted Shitladham Fed Farmer Producer Company recently received comprehensive and detailed knowledge on paddy cultivation, marking a significant step forward in their agricultural practices. This educational initiative is set to empower farmers with advanced techniques and best practices in paddy farming, enabling them to optimize yield and quality. By equipping these farmers with the latest information, ISRN is fostering sustainable agriculture, enhancing productivity, and ultimately improving the livelihoods of the farming community. This endeavour not only reinforces the farmers' expertise but also strengthens the overall agricultural framework of the region, ensuring food security and economic growth.

Inspection of FPOs by Ministry officials

Recently, officials from the Ministry conducted a thorough inspection of the two FPOs promoted by ISRN. During their visit, the officials meticulously evaluated various aspects of the FPO's operations, including its administrative efficiency, financial management, and agricultural practices. The inspection aimed to ensure that the FPO adheres to the highest standards of governance and productivity, thereby maximizing benefits for its member farmers. The Ministry officials praised the FPO for its transparency, innovative approaches, and commitment to empowering the farming community. This inspection not only validates the FPO's efforts but also encourages continuous improvement and adherence to best practices in agricultural production and management.



Capacity Building Vertical: **ISRN NGO CLINIC PODCAST**

It's with immense pleasure that we bring you the fourth installment of the ISRN NGO Clinic Podcast series. The podcast has become a dynamic platform, shedding light on pressing crucial issues and celebrating the indomitable spirit of individuals effecting positive change. Through insightful conversations and ingenious solutions, we've echoed the pulse of progress, embodying the ethos of ISRN.

EPISODE 4: Eco-Responsibility in Action: Ashwani Khurana's Green Legacy



We are thrilled to present the fourth episode of ISRN's NGO Clinic Podcast, featuring the esteemed Mr. Ashwani Khurana, a trailblazing Indian entrepreneur and passionate environmentalist. This episode, titled "Eco-responsibility in Action: Ashwani Khurana's Green Legacy," delves into Mr. Khurana's remarkable journey and his pioneering work in sustainable community development. As the Founder and CEO of Karma Lakelands in Gurugram, Mr. Khurana has transformed the township into a model for eco-friendly living, emphasizing the principles of conscious and responsible living. Hosted by ISRN CEO Santosh Gupta, this enlightening conversation explores innovative practices such as water recycling, rain harvesting, organic farming, bio-composting, and the extensive use of solar power.

Join us as we uncover the profound impact of Mr. Khurana's initiatives on environmental sustainability and learn how his vision for a greener future can inspire us all. From nurturing forest zones using recycled water to promoting responsible ecological practices, this episode is a treasure trove of insights for anyone passionate about making a positive difference for Mother Earth. Don't miss out on this opportunity to hear from one of the leading voices in sustainable development. Tune in now to gain valuable knowledge and be inspired to take action in your own community. Watch the full episode on our YouTube channel today!

Watch the full episode [here!](#)

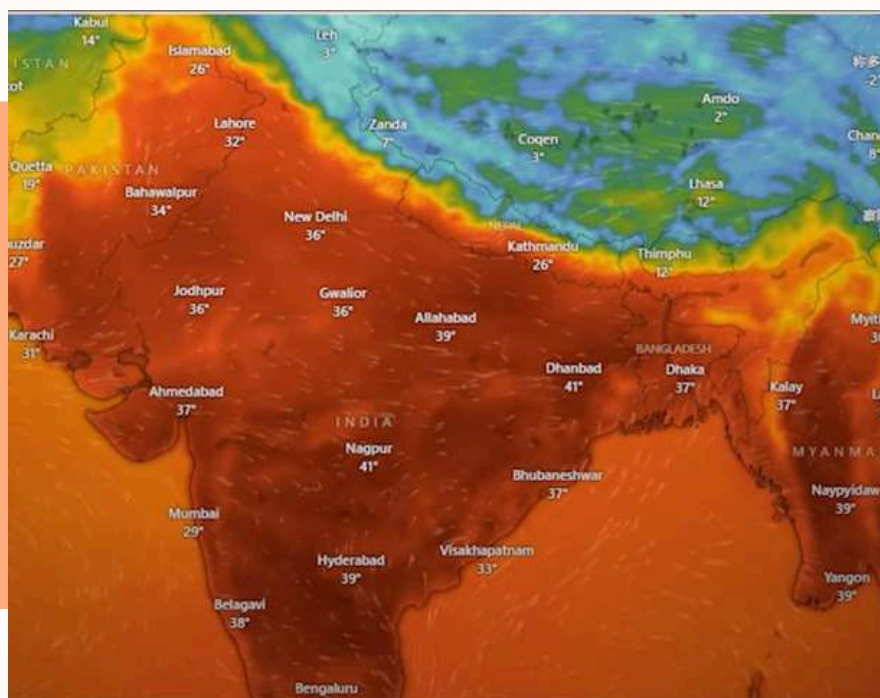
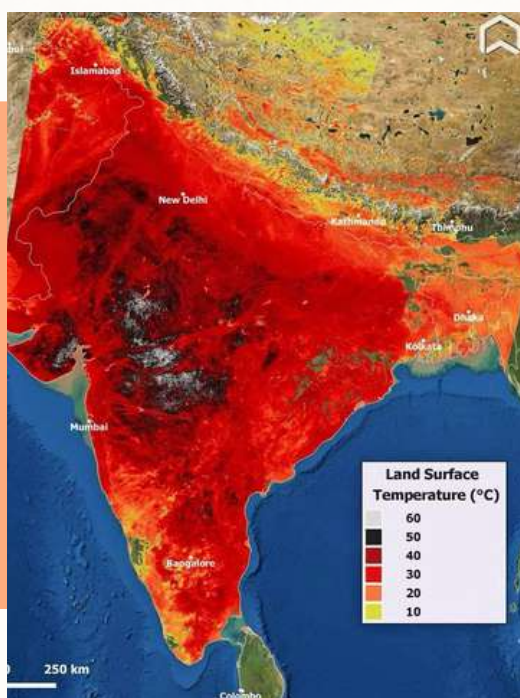
PERSONAL BULLETIN by ISRN Governing Board Member, Mr. Jagat Kinkhabwala

Global Warming, Warning for Agriculture!

Climate change is the single biggest health threat facing humanity. Climate impacts are already harming health, through air pollution, disease, extreme weather events, forced displacement, pressures on mental health, and increased hunger and poor nutrition in places where people cannot grow or find sufficient food.

The increase in temperature in the recent past because of global warming and climate change is a matter of great concern for all lives.

Climate change and agriculture are interrelated in several ways. Climate change is the main cause of abiotic and biotic stresses, which have harmful effects on agriculture. Raising temperatures, drought or water stress, changing climate zones, rainfall, insect-pest outbreaks etc. are the major consequences of climate change. The impact of climate change on fruit crops is likely to be more detrimental as compared to field crops as the adaptation capacity of shorter-duration crops is generally greater than perennials.



Climate change affects fruit crops in their different phases of growth and development such as fruit sunburn, inadequate pollination, delayed ripening, reduced colour development, low sugar content, poor fruit quality and fruit set, low fruit yield, small size reduced panicle emergence.

Effect of Climate Change on Horticultural Fruit Crops

It has been shown that high-chilling needed apple cultivars like Royal Delicious Apples have been replaced with low-chilling required cultivars and other fruit crops like peach, kiwi, plum, pear and vegetables. The trend is to switch from potato and apple cultivation fully in the middle hills of Shimla district.

The snowfall pattern and apple production in Himachal Pradesh have been corroborated in this regard. Apple production fell from 10.8 to 5.8 tons per hectare. In hot and humid situations, the incidence of insect-pests and diseases is more in fruit crops like in Guava the attack of Fruit flies is higher in such conditions. In Papaya, leaf curl virus attack is also more whereas crops like apricots; plums or peaches need low chilling temperatures showing signs of decline in productivity due to such extreme temperatures. A high temperature alters plant morphology, anatomy and physiology, affecting seed germination, plant development, flower shedding, pollen viability, gamete fertilization, fruit setting, fruit weight, and size and fruit quality. Many fruit crops are severely affected by hot and cold waves which are happening more and more frequently these days and similar fluctuations are more often and severe. In perennial fruit crops such as mango, temperature affects flowering. Mango has a vegetative tendency and when the temperature rises, it bears more number of leaves thus affecting the phenology of flowering. It may be noted that the hermaphrodite flowers (having both stamen and carpel) percentage in late emerging panicles was higher which also coincided with extreme temperatures.

The effect of low temperature and inadequate chills can reduce pollination for cross-pollinated fruits such as pistachios and walnuts and thus reduce crop yields.



The optimum temperature for temperate fruits such as plums, apples, cherries, pears etc. for pollination and fertilization is between 20° and 25 °C. In the peak winter of January 2024, the day temperatures were as high as 36 degrees centigrade and nights were winter chilled just as every year having lower temperatures of 10 degrees centigrade as always in winter (Ahmedabad, Gujarat). In the month of March, mango trees were having flowers instead of small mangoes. This results in less of the crop of mangoes and the same fate in all other fruit crops.

The results indicated that climate change would adversely affect the yields of different crops.

Rainfall is also another major factor, which arises due to climate change. Uneven precipitation or no rainfall decreases the crop yield, especially in

rain-fed areas. Heavy rainfall in areas of poor drainage causes less oxygen availability in soil which leads to the killing of the growth of beneficial microorganisms and due to water-logged conditions, many insect pests and diseases occur which will affect crop yield. Besides non-seasonal rains damage and destroy standing crops in the field in many areas. Similarly heavy wind blows damage fruits, standing crops and leaves of plants. The delicacy of the plant decides its adverse effect. Maximum yield reduction (-61 %) is projected in wheat and lowest in pearl millet (-8%). Maize during kharif season would be more affected (-47%) than the rabi season (-10%).

Similarly, pearl millet in the summer season will be least affected (-8%) than the kharif season (-14%). Carbon Dioxide, the CO_2 level is one of the most limited factors in terms of fruit growth due to the high emission level.

The increasing concentration in the atmosphere would have a great impact on determining fruit productivity since carbon dioxide is an important element for Photosynthesis. This has a very important and critical effect on the quality of the air and damages the trees in a big way.

Climate change is a fact and there is ample proof that green gas emissions cause climate change and global warming. Changing climatic parameters has affected the normal growth and development, altered flowering behaviour, influenced the quality fruit production. It has brought about changes in pest and disease incidence. Low winter chill affects tree behaviour such as flowering and lack of uniformity. In view of the potential effect of climate change, emphasis be given; to the development of heat and drought resistant varieties.



With growth in India, there is a forecast of 50 trillion economy by 2047, with year-on-year GDP going up consistently. For this, one important contribution is agriculture production. With lower quantity and quality agricultural produce, it will be tough to achieve the projected GDP. On the contrary, it will have a negative impact due to the loss of minerals and vitamins from the food grains. Due to various reasons, the properties of grains cultivated have gone down by an alarming 45%.

It will result in a reduction in the inferior food input quality affecting the health of the masses due to a 40% reduction in the properties, which will adversely increase the government health budget, and shortage of food grains. It is going to be world over, decreasing food availability, malnutrition and health hazards.

ISRN believes that having a right to live in equality is something each human deserves and with support from people like you, we are transforming the lives of thousands of fellow citizens. We have held workshops and training sessions for more than 800 member organisations, fostering a symbolic growth system

We genuinely appreciate all of your help, love, and support for ISRN.

We humbly ask that you continue to provide us with support, advice, and invaluable assistance that will enable us to ensure that each and everyone is empowered to grow and flourish in their own unique way.

Please scan the QR code to donate towards these causes, as your small contribution will help maintain smiles on million faces.



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Thank you for reading!



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