

A key feature of this project was the establishment of seven Model Immunization Centers at public health facilities, including Health and Wellness Centers (HWCs). I want to express my sincere gratitude to the entire MRITE Team for their tireless dedication, which enabled us to meet and exceed the expectations of our donors, JSI and USAID. In addition to our health initiatives, I am pleased to highlight the success of our Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs). Our farmers have launched 45 finished products, including Pahadi Ghee, Apple Jam, Essential Oil, Room Freshener, Lavender Oil, Pickles, Deshi Gur, Bhaderwah Rajma, and more. Through these efforts, we continue to provide small and marginalized farmers with the tools and resources they need to enhance their livelihoods. The continued success of the Giripar Krishak Utpadak Company's input store has also been a major milestone, with the FPO achieving a remarkable turnover of more than Rs. 51 lakhs during the financial year 2023–2024.

Recently, we have also transformed two schools into Uttam Schools, one in Supi Village which is the last village located in Bageshwar District, Uttarakhand, and another school located in one of the highest, challenging and hard to reach area in Sirmaur District, Himachal Pradesh. The interventions carried out by ISRN will be handed over to the respective school authorities during an inauguration event planned for next month, October 2024.

Our participation in India Water Week 2024 further emphasized the urgent need to address climate change and water conservation.

Lastly, I am excited to announce the release of the latest episode of ISRN's NGO Clinic Podcast (Episode 9: Navigating FCRA, Finance and Accounting for NGOs and Episode 10: Child-Centric Sustainable Development Strategies), featuring renowned experts who discusses the importance of documentation for the success of NGOs. This platform continues to serve as an invaluable resource for knowledge sharing in the NGO sector.

These achievements reflect ISRN's collective commitment to driving meaningful change. I extend my heartfelt thanks for your continued support as we work together towards a more inclusive and sustainable future.

Warm regards,

Santosh Gupta

CEO, Indian Social Responsibility Network (ISRN)

MOMENTUM Routine Immunization Transformation and Equity Project (MRITE)

ISRN successfully implemented the USAID-funded MOMENTUM Routine Immunization Transformation and Equity Project, aimed at strengthening the government's efforts in COVID-19 vaccination and Routine Immunization (RI), with a strong focus on vulnerable populations. The project initially began in Meghalaya and Nagaland and later expanded to five North-Eastern states—Meghalaya, Nagaland, Tripura, Arunachal Pradesh, and Manipur.

ISRN reached over 1.1 million people, administering COVID-19 vaccines to 175,000 individuals and supporting 1,668 RI session sites. The project facilitated 82,900 RI doses and ensured 19,960 beneficiaries received routine immunizations, including 2,551 LODOR cases, with 2,320 children fully immunized. A key feature of this project was the development of 7 Model Immunization Centers at public health facilities, including Health and Wellness Centers (HWCs), and partnerships with private hospitals for COVID-19 vaccination.



Innovative community engagement activities like Baby Show, Immunization Reminder Cards, etc, played a pivotal role in driving participation and awareness, while extensive collaborations with various sectors further enhanced the program's impact. This multi-pronged approach helped deliver critical health services to some of the most vulnerable populations in the region.



MAKING A DIFFERENCE

The Story of Impact



Multiple communication and awareness approaches were used to reach a population of 11,97,398, both for COVID-19 vaccination and Routine Immunization across Meghalaya, Nagaland, Tripura, Arunachal Pradesh and Manipur.



82,900 Routine Immunization doses facilitated across 5 states



Meghalaya and Nagaland collectively administered a total of 1,74,423 COVID-19 vaccination doses since inception of the project in November, 2021, with 87,091 doses administered in Meghalaya and 87,332 doses administered in Nagaland.



4,297 people availed health services through 55 health camps.



Meghalaya and Nagaland collectively organised 1,826 awareness and vaccination camps across 17 districts collectively for COVID-19 vaccination.



A total of 2,164 healthcare workers have been trained in various subjects through 72 capacity-building trainings.



19,960 beneficiaries were vaccinated with Routine Immunization including 2,551 LODOR cases.

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

Ongoing Success of Input Store for Giripar Krishak Utpadak Company in Sirmaur, Himachal Pradesh

The Giripar Krishak Utpadak Company, a Farmer Producer Organization (FPO) promoted by ISRN in the Shillai block of Sirmaur district, Himachal Pradesh, continues to make significant strides in supporting small and marginalized farmers through its dedicated input store. Established to provide high-quality agricultural inputs, the store has become a vital resource for the farming community in the region.



The input store offers premium seeds and fertilizers at affordable prices, ensuring that farmers have access to essential supplies that enhance crop productivity. By keeping costs low without compromising on quality, the store plays a crucial role in boosting the economic viability of farming for smallholder farmers who are shareholders of the FPO.

Beyond just providing inputs, the Board of Directors of the FPO actively engages with the farmers, offering valuable guidance on how to effectively use these products to improve the quality and yield of their crops. This ongoing support ensures that farmers are not only equipped with the right tools but are also empowered with the knowledge to maximize their agricultural output.



The success of this initiative reflects ISRN's commitment to fostering sustainable agricultural practices and enhancing the livelihoods of rural communities. As the input store continues to serve the Shillai block farming community, it remains a key pillar in promoting long-term agricultural development in the region.



Sustainable Agriculture Initiative

ISRN has signed an MoU with Delhi Premier Rotary Service Foundation to conduct a Baseline and Feasibility study across Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, and Maharashtra. This collaboration, under the project "Partners for Water Access and Better Harvest in India," aims to enhance agricultural productivity and sustainability through improved resource management and innovative farming practices. Together, we are committed to empowering farmers and promoting sustainable agriculture for a better future.



Uttam School

"FROM CLASSROOMS TO YOGA MATS: NURTURING WELL-ROUNDED GROWTH AT UTTAM SCHOOLS"

The Uttam School Initiative continues to make remarkable strides in transforming education for underserved communities, ensuring that students not only receive academic knowledge but also develop holistically. Among the 53 schools transformed by this initiative is Divya Bharat Shiksha Mandir, a residential school in Uttarakhand, recognized by the State Education Board. This school offers a unique blend of free lodging, boarding, and education to children from marginalized communities, including daily wage laborers and families affected by leprosy, from across India.



Catering to students from nursery to 10th grade, Divya Bharat Shiksha Mandir goes beyond traditional academics. Its focus extends to vocational and skill development programs that equip students with the tools to become self-sustainable and independent. This approach is designed to empower students with practical skills that will serve them long after they leave the school's nurturing environment.

With the generous support of Rahee Infrastructure and Indian Social Responsibility Network (ISRN), the school has recently witnessed significant infrastructural improvements. New additions such as modern Chemistry and Physics labs, a drinking water facility, student toilets, and a newly constructed basketball court have enhanced the learning environment and opened doors for students to engage in comprehensive, well-rounded development. These upgrades not only support the academic performance of the students but also promote an atmosphere that encourages extracurricular engagement and physical well-being.



One of the unique aspects of this Uttam School is its integration of yoga into the students' daily routine. Every morning and evening, students participate in guided yoga sessions, promoting good health, releasing stress, and contributing to their overall mental and physical development. Yoga is a vital practice that teaches students discipline, enhances concentration, and supports emotional well-being, laying the foundation for balanced and empowered individuals.

Through the Uttam School Initiative, Divya Bharat Shiksha Mandir is offering its students more than just an education; it is providing them with a nurturing environment to grow into well-rounded, confident, and self-reliant individuals. By addressing not only academic but also physical, mental, and vocational needs, this holistic approach is shaping the future of countless children who might otherwise have been left behind.

As this initiative continues to grow, it stands as a testament to the power of education in transforming lives and uplifting communities. With continued support, Uttam Schools will remain a beacon of hope, paving the way for a brighter and more equitable future for all students.



8th India Water Week 2024:

ISRN's Contribution to Sustainable Water Management



The 8th India Water Week, held from **September 17-20, 2024**, at Bharat Mandapam, Pragati Maidan, New Delhi, was a landmark event focusing on India's critical water challenges. Organized by the **Ministry of Jal Shakti**, the event centered around the theme "Partnerships and Cooperation for Inclusive Water Development and Management." It brought together global experts, policymakers, and environmental leaders to develop strategies for a sustainable water future. As a key contributor, the Indian Social Responsibility Network (ISRN) co-hosted a dedicated session titled **"Water Prosperous World: Synergising Harit Actions for Ecological Sustainability and Human Well-being."** This forum, held in collaboration with Paryavaran Sanrakshan Gatividhi, Deendayal Research Institute (DRI), and Jaladhikar Foundation, focused on integrating traditional Indian water conservation philosophies with modern solutions.



The session brought together renowned thought leaders, including **Pujya Shri Chinmay Pandya Ji**, Pro-Vice Chancellor, **Dev Sanskriti Vishwavidyalaya**; **Sant Shri Balbir Singh Seechewal Ji**, a noted environmentalist; and **Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswati Ji**, President of Parmarth Niketan Ashram. **Shri Santosh Gupta, CEO of ISRN**, delivered a compelling keynote on merging innovative water management technology with community-led, traditional conservation methods.

Speakers such as Dr. Anil Mehta Ji of Vidya Bhawan, Atul Jain Ji from Deendayal Research Institute, and Dr. Kristen Jensen from Denmark, provided deep insights into how collaborative action across sectors could enhance India's water sustainability efforts. The event underscored the importance of community participation, ecological balance, and synergies between governmental bodies and civil society in addressing India's pressing water challenges. Through these collaborative dialogues, ISRN emphasized the necessity of merging ancient wisdom with modern innovations to ensure a sustainable and water-secure future for the nation.



Personal Bulletin

Jagat Kinkhabwala

(Sparrowman Nature Conservation & Author)

“Let’s go Back to Nature”

Human Induced Climate Change & Its Effects



Climate change refers to changes conditions occurring over a period, either due to natural forces or from human activities. Climate change is a major challenge facing our planet today.

Directly and indirectly, every living being is increasingly facing the vagaries day in and day out and the same is worsening for the worst.

Climate and natural ecosystems are closely related and depend on each other, and the stability of this relation is an important ecosystem service.

Climate change affects mitigation and adaptation. The synthesis reveals that the climate change impacts at local level also need to be categorized based on various climatic elements viz., rainfall, temperature, CO2 concentration, including their cumulative responses.

Shocking News

Om Parvat/ hill: Snow disappears at popular 14,000-foot Vyas Valley peak due to tourism is one major reason. There is no snow on the & -shaped hill (Hindu belief). The spot was barely recognizable without snow. For the first time, snow completely disappeared from Uttarakhand& Om Parvat/hill last week, sparking concerns among visitors and experts alike. The phenomenon, attributed to scanty rainfall and snowfall in the upper Himalayan region over the past five years, rising vehicular pollution, and global warming, left the iconic peak bare. However, a snowfall on Monday night brought back snow to the revered site.

Experts have linked the unprecedented snow disappearance to multiple factors, including a significant reduction in rainfall and snowfall, vehicular pollution, and global warming. Sunil Nautiyal, Director of the GB Pant National Institute of Himalayan Environment, highlighted the rising temperatures in the eco-sensitive zones of the Himalayan region as a key cause. He stressed the need to determine the bearing capacity of all sensitive places in the high. It is confirmed that this was the first time in his 22 years of service that one witnesses snowless Om Parvat/ hill in Uttarakhand just recently.





Himalaya is the youngest mountain system on the earth. There is high environmental variability and therefore there exists variety of biodiversity, which supports humans in the region.

Due to climate change effects and rising temperature on the mountains, noticeable changes are experienced in the vegetation. Those, which can shift, have gone on higher elevations. The effective changes all over is a big and serious threat to the biodiversity in the form of stress; damage to public health infrastructure, by floods and other natural calamities.

Indirect impacts of climate change could include effects on range and activity of infective vectors and parasites± leading to incidence of vector borne diseases (malaria, dengue fever and several types of encephalitis); altered local ecology of water borne and food borne ineffective agents because of higher temperatures leading to changed incidence of diarrhoea and other infectious diseases. There are many such horrifying death reports from other part of the earth. Climate change also affect water availability through more evaporation, which leads to less availability of fresh water, in turn leading to lack of hygiene and thus increase water borne diseases.

With rise in surface temperature and changes in rainfall patterns, the distribution of vector mosquito species may change and recently malaria mosquitoes have been observed at high altitudes. It is projected that the spread of malaria, tick-borne diseases and other infectious diseases linked to the rate of pathogen replication will all be enhanced due to changing weather conditions which highly affect the human health as well as wellbeing of the Himalayan community.

The mosquitoes' bites leading to malaria among birds results into avian malaria. Delicate birds which do not have the immunity to face the bites, the numbers have started dwindling.

They reside in those areas having conducive temperature. They may shift to a particular height but at Om Parvat/ mountain. For an example, there is no more requisite low temperature for avoid mosquitoes and survive for many of the biodiversity.

Ref. 1: 26th August 2024 AajTak News

Ref. 2: 5th September 2024 Navbharat Times

Ref. 3: 5th September 2024 Down To Earth Publication



WATER RESOURCES AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Mountainous regions are vulnerable to climate change. According to the IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change), impacts are expected to range from reduced genetic diversity of species to glacial melt in the Himalayas leading to increased flooding, which will ultimately affect water resources availability within the next few decades. With over 15 important perennial glacier fed rivers and over a dozen glaciers in the state, Uttarakhand is a valuable freshwater reserve.

The IPCC again points to the fact that this alarming trend of glacial melts may lead to many rivers becoming seasonal rivers in the future, thus affecting the economic potential in their basin areas. As the River Ganga originates from the Gangotri, increased glacial melt due to climate change would have consequences on livelihoods of the people and ecological balances in the state as well. The thinning of glaciers and reduction in ice cover during the last century, across the globe, especially in mountain glaciers is seen as an evidence of Climate Change. At high elevations in the Himalaya, the warming of the climate is resulting in the recession of glaciers and formation of glacial lakes. Human activities including settlement, hydropower generation, mining and wilderness tourism in mountainous areas have increasing conflict with glacial hazards including moraine dam failures and glacial lake outburst floods (GLOFs), with potentially disastrous effects. Environmental changes pose a grave threat to the Himalayan glaciers more floods are a distinct possibility. The increase in global temperature will cause increased occurrence of glacial lake outburst floods and will affect the size of the glacial lakes.



Breakage of such lakes can be extremely devastating to human habitations e.g. Kedarnath disaster of Uttarakhand in June 2013. The monsoon reached Uttarakhand almost two weeks earlier than normal, resulting in cloudbursts and very heavy (124.5 ± 244.4 mm) rainfall in several parts of the higher reaches of the Himalayas. Further, the water surge was caused by a breach in the boundary of Chorabari Lake due to heavy rainfall upstream. This resulted in the release of huge volume of water along with large boulders, devastating the towns of

Kedarnath, Rambara, Gaurikund and others in its way. The Gangotri glacier, one of the major and important glaciers in the Himalaya, was measured 25 km long in 1930s and has now shrunk to about 20 km. climate change is creating havoc world over and has changed weather all patterns rain, winter and summer. Enough lessons and lots of studies and studies but now is the time to act to behave. This indicates that world is going towards human sixth extinction, which would be human induced.

Capacity Building Initiative

ISRN's FPO Progress Review Meeting : Advancing Farmer Empowerment Across India

ISRN recently conducted a significant FPO Team Progress Review Meeting at its headquarters in Delhi, bringing together field teams from Sirmaur (Himachal Pradesh), Chakrata & Sahaspur (Dehradun), Garud & Bageshwar (Uttarakhand), and Uttar Pradesh. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Santosh Gupta, CEO of ISRN, and provided a platform for the team to assess the performance of their Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), discuss challenges, and set clear strategic goals for the future.



In his address, **Mr. Santosh Gupta** highlighted the critical need to link all FPOs to both state and national-level government schemes, ensuring that each organization benefits from available resources and support. He also acknowledged the teams for successfully acquiring the mandatory licenses required for FPO operations, a vital step toward legal and operational readiness.



The meeting featured in-depth discussions and comprehensive presentations on the progress made by each FPO. Special focus was given to tackling key challenges, with particular attention to the ongoing crop demonstrations, farmer training initiatives, and the development of a sustainable supply chain. As part of their future strategy, the teams are now working to identify at least two key products for each FPO, which will be prioritized for market development and expansion. The next steps involve strengthening supply chains and identifying the demand for these products to optimize market success.

ISRN, in partnership with the Small Farmers Agribusiness Consortium (SFAC) and the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India (NAFED), continues to promote 35 FPOs across four states. These efforts are central to ISRN's mission to empower farmers, enhance agricultural practices, and stimulate economic growth in rural regions. The organization is fully committed to fostering sustainable agricultural development through collective farming, innovative supply chain management, and improved market connectivity.



As ISRN moves forward, it remains proud of the dedication and hard work of its field teams across India. The organization is excited about the road ahead, focused on strengthening the role of FPOs in the Indian agricultural landscape. By building a farmer-first model that enhances productivity and sustainability, ISRN is laying the foundation for long-term economic stability and growth for farming communities throughout the country.



ISRN's NGO Clinic Podcast- Episode 8

"Documenting Success: Best Practices for NGOs in the Digital Age"



In a recent episode of ISRN's NGO Clinic Podcast, we explored the pivotal role of documentation in the social development sector and how it can significantly influence an NGO's success. ISRN CEO, Mr. Santosh Gupta, engaged in an insightful conversation with Mr. Ashok Raisinghani, Country Lead for the ARC Project - JSI (India), sharing best practices for NGO documentation in the digital age.

Key Topics Discussed:

- The role of proper documentation in enhancing organizational effectiveness.
- Common documentation challenges faced by NGOs and effective strategies to tackle them.
- Phase-wise structuring of documentation at both the organizational and program levels.
- The impact of documentation on legal compliance, reporting, and overall program success.
- How impact assessments and thorough documentation can boost an NGO's visibility and credibility.
- Utilizing documentation as a tool for policy advocacy and influencing social change.

Whether you're a social worker, an NGO professional, or simply passionate about making a difference, this episode provided valuable insights to strengthen documentation processes within NGOs. If you missed the episode, it's a must-listen for those looking to elevate their organization's documentation practices and ensure long-term success.

[Watch the full episode here!](#)

SUMMIT OF THE FUTURE

A brief report by Associate Director: Ashish Mansharamani

World leaders at the UN's Summit of the Future adopted three foundational agreements to safeguard our future for generations to come, capping arduous negotiations. Imperfect but important, the Pact for the Future, Global Digital Compact & Declaration on Future Generations provide an essential basis for action floor, not a ceiling, for the stepped up cooperation we need in a turbulent world.



With climate change accelerating and pandemics wreaking havoc, the limitations of solitary action have become starkly evident, underscoring the necessity for collective, coordinated responses. This reality breathes life into the UN's core mission: to champion multilateralism and intergenerational collaboration as the keys to a more peaceful and sustainable future.

The Summit of the Future embodied this mission, symbolizing the UN's dedication to bridging the global community. This summit aimed to forge a Pact for the Future and a Declaration on Future Generations, committing to a unified approach in addressing the multifaceted issues that know no borders.

This initiative reflects the UN's commitment to fostering a resilient, inclusive, and sustainable future, emphasizing the evolution of global governance to cater to every country and every person's needs, with a special focus on empowering young people and protecting future generations.

The Summit of the Future was not merely about addressing present-day challenges but about crafting a durable framework for unity and collective action. This pivotal moment offered the world a chance to renew its faith in the UN as the cornerstone of global unity and action, aligning the dreams of present and future generations with tangible solutions.

The Summit underscored the UN's indispensable role in securing a flourishing future for all.



Youth lead the way ahead of UN Summit of the Future | UN News

United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres said at the Summit "What a world we would have to enjoy, if we committed and stood by our commitments (to borrow from words from the pact – fair, effective, inclusive, no one is left behind). Alphabet and Google CEO Sundar Pichai also shared his life's purpose goal and a 120 million \$, fund for AI & SDG's advancement towards 2030 in global south countries. Such noble aspirations, but the proof is visible within the cake only.

Below are some excerpts from the pact that have stood out for me:

"Fellow human beings are enduring terrible suffering. If we do not change course, we risk tipping into a future of persistent crisis and breakdown."

"We recognize that the well-being of current and future generations and the sustainability of our planet rest on our willingness to take action."

Impressions by the youth of the India after attending the UN Summit of the Future 20th -22nd September 2024 at the UN HQ.

1.Ranvir Sachdeva – World's Youngest Author, TED X Speaker and AI Technologist: It was amazing to be part of Summit of the Future, where everyone including me as a 6 year olds future of our generation is being decided and voice being heard. Meeting the Secretary General, Assistant Secretary General, and Minister of Youth of Nigeria in the side session of Gen AI for Global Goals was a great honor for me where, I shared perspectives on the SDG4 of quality education. It was indeed an experience that has given me new learning's to explore my interest of digital technologies and hopefully contribute my bit for a better world in the future.

2.David Sathuluri – Columbia University: This summit was truly transformative bringing together youth leaders, policy makers and advocates to collaborate on shaping the future. It was not just about drafting policies it was about driving action. Youth taking up responsibility to shape tomorrows conversations, become catalysts for meaningful change right now reinforced my belief that we have the power and responsibility to create policies that are inclusive, equitable and forward thinking.

3.Palak Gupta – MBBS Student India: I was privileged to engage with global thought leaders and experts to address issues such as digital governance, climate action and peace building. As a medical student I was deeply engaged in UN Scientific Advisory Board's discussion on health science and policy integration, science based decision making in addressing complex issues like climate change, technological risks and global health. These experiences reinforced my belief in the necessity of evidence based approaches to solve contemporary issues and reaffirmed by commitment to contributing to future global health dialogues and research initiatives on the implementation of Pact of Future.

4.Parth Bhatt – ECB Youth Sustainable Foundation: This summit provided a platform to exchange innovative ideas and collaborate on forward thinking solutions for global challenges. Engaging with global leaders, policy makers, youth representatives my passion for advocacy was reaffirmed and further motivated me to contribute meaningfully towards shaping policies that prioritize inclusivity and long term resilience.

ISRIN 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 ISRIN.

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.

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