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Monthly Newsletter



CEO – SANTOSH GUPTA

Dear Friends, Member Organizations, Donors & Stakeholders, Greetings from the Indian Social Responsibility Network (ISRN)

As we step forward into a new quarter, I am proud to reflect on the meaningful strides we made in April 2025—each milestone a testament to our collective resolve to bring sustainable and inclusive change to communities across India.

This month marked a historic chapter in ISRN's journey with the Inaugural General Meeting of our Advisory Board. The presence of distinguished members from across the country added immense depth to our strategic visioning process. Their insights and encouragement have strengthened our roadmap for scaling impact, enhancing governance, and mobilizing shared expertise across sectors.

April also brought us the Annual General Meeting of the Governing Board, where we showcased our progress and set the course for the coming months. With the launch of the ISRN Annual Report 2024–25 and reflections on our engagements at global platforms like UN COP29 and UN CSW69, we reinforced our growing footprint in both national and international development landscapes.

Our work on the ground continues to thrive. The recent allocation of 11 additional Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) by the Small Farmers' Agribusiness Consortium (SFAC) in Jammu & Kashmir is a clear recognition of ISRN's sustained commitment to farmer-centric development. Our team's field visits in Poonch, Ganderbal, and Kupwara strengthened district-level engagement, creating space for collaboration and local empowerment.

In the education sector, the transformation of Saraswati Shishu Vidya Mandir in Haridwar under the Uttam School initiative, supported by Rahee Infratech Ltd., stands out as a shining example of what targeted CSR support can achieve. The upgraded infrastructure, labs, renovated toilets, BaLA painting, Menstrual Hygiene Management and community engagement have led to a visible increase in enrollment and renewed hope in the hard to reach region long underserved.

Our commitments to Health and Environment also found vibrant expression this month. On World Immunization Week, ISRN launched a digital awareness campaign to counter misinformation and advocate for equitable access to life-saving vaccines. Likewise, World Earth Day was celebrated with school children in Delhi who pledged their commitment to the planet, proving once again that change begins with awareness and participation at the grassroots.

In the spirit of knowledge-sharing, Episode 15 of our NGO Clinic Podcast featured a compelling conversation with Mr. Ankit Vohra, National Planning Director, McCann Worldgroup, on the role of communication as a catalyst for social change. It was an inspiring dialogue that emphasized the need for culturally sensitive, community-centered messaging to drive impact in today's development discourse.

As always, I extend my gratitude to our Friends, Member Organizations, Donors & Stakeholders. With the continued guidance of our Boards and the strength of our fieldwork, ISRN remains steadfast in its mission—to serve, to innovate, and to transform.

Warm Regards,

Santosh Gupta

Chief Executive Officer

Indian Social Responsibility Network (ISRN)



Formation & Promotion of Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs)

We are pleased to share a significant milestone in our ongoing work to empower farmers and strengthen grassroots institutions. The Small Farmers' Agribusiness Consortium (SFAC) has entrusted ISRN with the responsibility of supporting 11 additional registered Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) in the Jammu and Kashmir region. This includes 7 FPOs in Poonch, 2 in Ganderbal, and 2 in Kupwara. This recognition comes in light of the strong and consistent performance of our existing FPOs in Jammu & Kashmir, which have delivered impactful results on the ground.

With this latest addition, ISRN is now working with a total of 46 FPOs across four states—Jammu & Kashmir, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, and Uttar Pradesh—with the support of both SFAC and NAFED. This expansion reinforces our commitment to building strong, community-based institutions that empower small and marginal farmers. We are deeply grateful to SFAC for their continued trust and support in our vision of collective growth and inclusive development.



As part of our recent field engagement, ISRN's team visited these allocated registered FPOs in the districts of Poonch, Kupwara, and Ganderbal of Jammu and Kashmir. The visits included on-site inspections of FPO offices, completion of detailed assessment forms, and interviews with prospective local candidates. In addition, the team met with key district-level stakeholders, including the District Magistrate of Poonch and the Nodal Officer of Agriculture in Ganderbal, to discuss opportunities and challenges faced by the farming community in these areas.



These ground-level interactions provided crucial insights that will help shape our strategic planning for the newly added FPOs. Going forward, we aim to offer customized training, timely resources, and institutional support to ensure these FPOs become sustainable and impactful for their member farmers.



Uttam School

A Beacon of Change in Haridwar: Transforming Saraswati Shishu Vidya Mandir through CSR Support

Saraswati Shishu Vidya Mandir, a government high school in Laksar, Haridwar, Uttarakhand with an enrollment of 761 students, has undergone a remarkable transformation under the Uttam School initiative by ISRN, supported by the CSR contribution of Rahee Infratech Limited.

Following a comprehensive need assessment, several critical infrastructure upgrades have been implemented to create a safe, inclusive, and future-ready learning environment:

प्रवेश प्रारम्भ राजकीय मान्यता प्राप्त **प्रवेश प्रारम्भ**

सरस्वती शिशु/विद्या मन्दिर हाई स्कूल

पता- बालावाली रोड निकट-एस.डी.एम. निवास, लक्सर, हरिद्वार

कक्षा नर्सरी से कक्षा 10 तक हिन्दी व इंग्लिश मिडियम

1. प्रशिक्षित एवं अनुभवी अध्यापक/ अध्यापिकाओं द्वारा शिक्षण कार्य।
2. साफ-सुखे एवं हवादार कमरों की व्यवस्था।
3. पीने के लिए शुद्ध पेयजल की व्यवस्था।
4. समय-समय पर प्रतियोगिताएं पंटीधार्य।
5. छोटे बच्चों की आधुनिक देखभाल की व्यवस्था।
6. वर्ष में 3 बार अभिभावक-शिक्षक मीटिंग।
7. सी.सी.टी.वी. कमरों की व्यवस्था।
8. कम्प्यूटर लैब, लाइब्रेरी एवं साइंस एक्टिविटी लैब की व्यवस्था।
9. बच्चों के लिये शैक्षिक भ्रमण।
10. शत प्रतिशत हाई स्कूल बोर्ड परिणाम।

सम्पर्क सूत्र- 9411373429, 9837756538

Menstrual Hygiene Management

Installation of a sanitary pad vending machine with an incinerator and a year's supply of sanitary pads.

Science Lab

A science lab stocked with essential equipment enables hands-on learning and fosters curiosity and innovation.

Toilet Renovation

Renovation of toilets has significantly improved hygiene and daily operations for both boys and girls.

Computer Lab

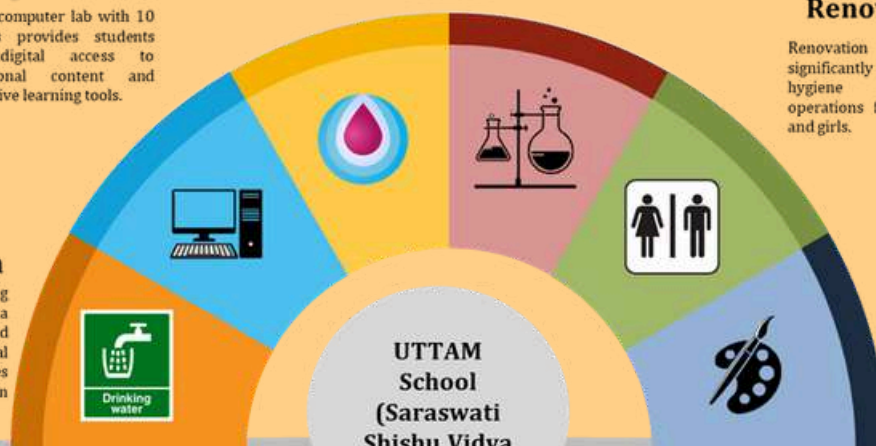
A new computer lab with 10 systems provides students with digital access to educational content and interactive learning tools.

Drinking Water Station

A fully equipped drinking water system, including a tank, tap platform, and wastewater disposal system, now ensures access to safe and clean drinking water.

BaLA Painting

The school environment has been brought to life through BaLA (Building as Learning Aid) art, making learning more joyful and engaging.





Shri Rajesh Chaudhary, the school Principal, Saraswati Shishu Vidya Mandir, expressed his gratitude for the initiative undertaken by ISRN with the support of Rahee Infratech. He highlighted the critical need for the school's upgradation and emphasized that the transformation will significantly enhance the student's learning experience.

The new computer and science labs, students will be better equipped to understand and retain concepts, and they will have greater opportunities for exploration and in-depth learning. This intervention has seen immense increase in the enrollment as this school is situated in flood affected area and every year the connectivity from settlement to school gets affected due to which there is decline in the enrollment in the past years. But this year brought a ray of hope with the program interventions which attracted the attention of parents and students.



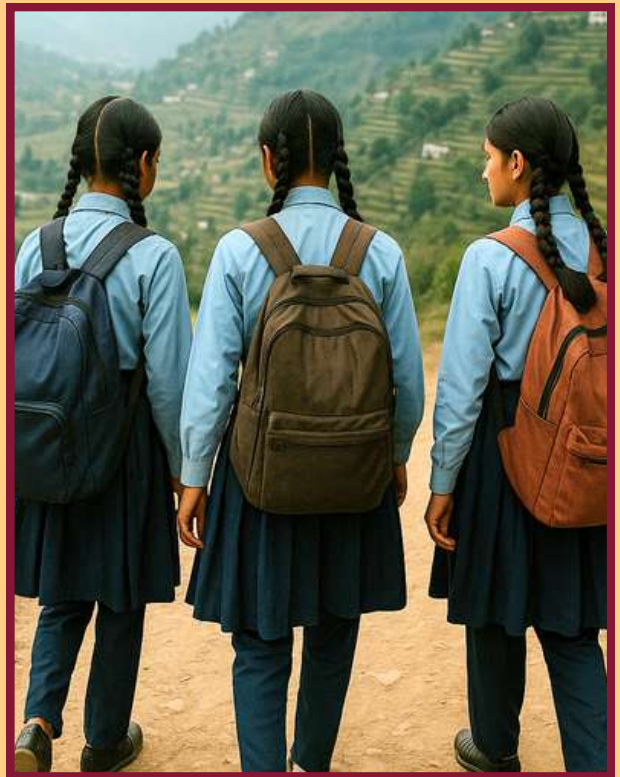
The transformation of Saraswati Shishu Vidya Mandir stands as a shining example of what collaborative action through CSR and NGO can achieve for education in vulnerable and underserved regions.



Left Behind: Why Girls Are Disappearing from Schools in the Hills

Menstruation health and hygiene has always remained a subject of gender disparity in India. Myths around menstruation and unhygienic environment are largely prevalent that has been forcing many girls to drop out of school early. In India, Education is a basic necessity for development, and the Indian government is making a lot of efforts through huge investments and many innovative programmes but dropout of girls remains alarming high in many states of India.

A 2024 report from The Tribune^[1] revealed that enrolment up to Class VIII in government schools alone dropped by nearly around 50,000 students in



a single year - from 26.02 crore in 2018–19 to 24.80 crore in 2023–24. School officials attributed this decline to increased preference for private schools with better infrastructure, urban migration, declining birth rates, and the lack of adequate facilities in many government institutions. Children, particularly girls, are often the first to be affected by these challenges, they are more likely to be pulled out of schools when families face barriers or need to make schooling decisions based on perceived quality and convenience.

An article by The Financial Express 2024^[1] states that the female students in India's hilly regions, such as Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand, are more likely to drop out of school due to a combination of geographic, social, health hygiene, and infrastructural challenges. The terrain itself poses a major hurdle many villages lack nearby secondary schools, and those that do exist often require girls to walk long, unsafe distances through forests. In families, where elder females remain occupied in household chores, school going girls are expected to take care of their siblings and take on domestic responsibilities, which further reduces their chances of staying in school. Sanitation is also another major aspect that as a significant number of schools lack functional and hygienic toilets or facilities to manage menstrual hygiene. Girls avoid school during their periods or drop out entirely due to embarrassment, discomfort, or the absence of safe facilities. These factors often led girls to skip school during their periods and eventually drop out altogether. Schools without targeted interventions such as better infrastructure and knowledge around menstrual hygiene practices, would continuously see the drop outs and lower enrolment rates of female students.

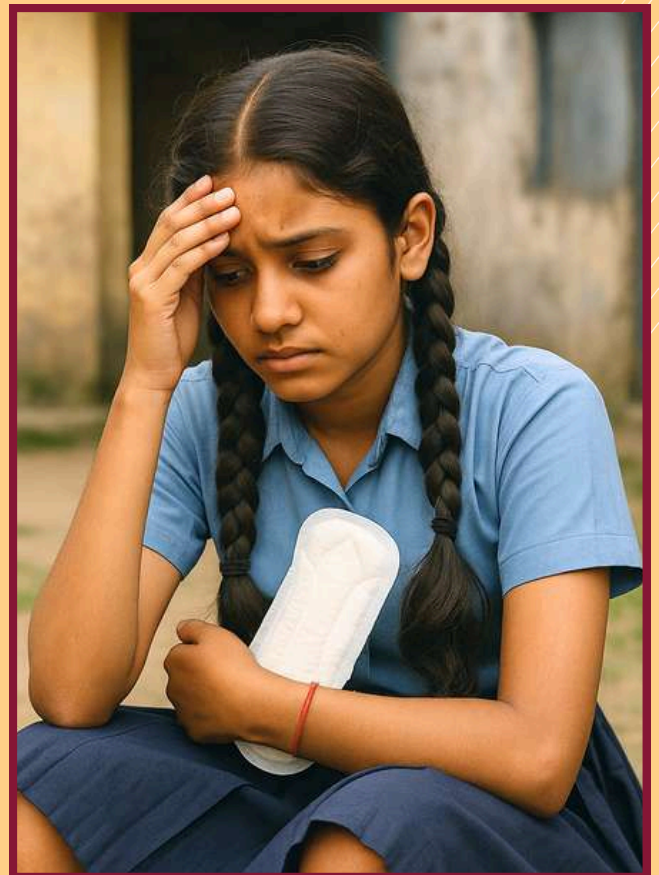
Over the years, Himachal Pradesh has experienced a significant decline in school enrolments over the past two decades. The primary school enrolment decreased to 2.36 lakh by 2023–24^[1]. Similarly, upper primary to 1.90 lakh during the same period. Himachal Pradesh also seen the closure of 286 government schools due to zero enrolments in 2023^[2].

In Uttarakhand, a comparable pattern is evident. According to a 2022 WaterAid India report, nearly 40% of schools in Uttarakhand and Himachal lack proper menstrual hygiene infrastructure^[3]. The state closed 24 schools in the 2023–24 academic year due to zero student enrolment^[1], up from 15 closures the previous year.

We are in 2025, and we still experience this in states like Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand, where school buildings often rest on cliff edges and the sky changes moods in minutes. Every year, thousands of girls silently drop out of school. They don't make headlines. There's no press note. One day they simply stop showing up.

Meena, a bright Class 8 student from Himachal. She used to walk everyday for 6 kilometers to reach her school. When she got her period, she went to school for a few months in the beginning but lately Meena started staying home as she her school lacks the basic facility of separate and clean female toilets. Months passed. Her textbooks gathered dust. She never showed up in school.

Another 13-year-old girl Sunita from a village in Uttarakhand. Sunita loved going to school. Sunita was a bright student in her class and always stands out first. She never missed a single class, she was good at learning, and in this young age, she also had big dreams for her future. However, the destiny had some other plans, when Sunita started to menstruating, the lack of proper sanitation facilities in her school became unbearable. The toilets were either dirty or completely unusable, and there were no safe spaces to manage her menstrual hygiene. Her family, already soaked in cultural taboos surrounding menstruation have told her it was better to stay at home during her periods rather than face the humiliation at school. Over time Sunita simply stopped attending.



Her dreams faded as she became more and more isolated.

Advisory Board Inaugural General Meeting



On April 24, 2025, Indian Social Responsibility Network (ISRN) hosted its Inaugural General Meeting of Advisory Board, marking a significant milestone in the organization's governance and strategic planning efforts. The session brought together key stakeholders both in-person and virtually to discuss ISRN's mission, achievements, and future roadmap. The meeting was marked by the presence of Sh. Gopal Krishna, IAS (Retired), Former Secretary- Ministry of Port, Shipping and Waterways, Dr. Kuldeep Sachdeva, Former DG- Central TB Division, Dr. J.P. Sharma, Former VC- Sher-E-Kashmir University, Sh. Santosh Gupta, CEO-ISRN, Sh. Ashish Mansharamani, Associate Director-ISRN, Sh. Samudra Naskar, General Manager-ISRN, in person and Mr. Rajesh Balani, AD-JANSAHAS, Dr. Subhash Hira, Professor of Global Health- University of Washington, Dr. Purnendu Mishra, Associate Professor- Allahabad University, Dr.Hiralal Nayak, Research a& Development Professional and Ms. Rinki Sharma, Statutory Auditor, virtually.

The ISRN team provided a comprehensive overview of the organization's vision, mission, objectives, key thrust areas and the work done in the past.

Key Highlights

- **Board Induction & Felicitations :**

New Advisory Board members were warmly welcomed and felicitated and introductions were made for both Advisory and Governing Board members.

- **Overview of ISRN journey :**

A short film and presentation provided an overview of ISRN's journey since 2014, highlighting major accomplishments.

- **Project Updates and Impact :**

The team shared successes in current projects, emphasising ISRN's impact in the key thrust areas of Capacity building, Research & Development and Model Project Implementation in the sectors of Health, Education, Agriculture and Environment. Key challenges were also discussed, and strategies were brainstormed to maximise effectiveness in the months ahead.

- **Leadership Election :**

Mr. Gopal Krishna was unanimously elected as Chairperson of the Advisory Board. Dr. Kuldeep Sachdeva and Dr. J.P. Sharma were appointed as Vice-Chairpersons.

- **Defining Roles :**

The roles and responsibilities of the Advisory Board were discussed that was not limited to strategic guidance, fundraising support, capacity building, and governance oversight.

- **Proposal Review :**

A status update regarding the project proposals submitted to the donor in the last quarter were presented. Board members committed support through technical inputs and networks.

With the valuable insights and strategic guidance of the Advisory Board members, ISRN will continue to strengthen its vision and broaden its impact



Advisory Board Members of ISRN

1. **Mr. Gopal Krishna, Chairperson, IAS (Retired), Former Secretary- Ministry of Port, Shipping and Waterways.**
2. **Dr. Kuldeep Sachdeva, Vice-Chairperson, Public Health Professional, Former Deputy DG- Central TB Division.**
3. **Dr. J.P. Sharma, Vice-Chairperson, Agriculture Professional, Former VC- Sher-E-Kashmir University, Joint Director- IARI-PUSA.**
4. **Dr. Subhash Hira, Infectious Disease Expert, Professor- Global Health, University of Washington.**
5. **Ms. Poonam Mittal, MD-Maple Press, Book Publishing Expert for 20 years.**
6. **Mr. Jayanti Sanghvi, Jt. MD- Ratnamani Metals and Tubes Ltd., CSR and Philanthropy Expert.**
7. **Mr. Rajesh Balani, AD- JANSahas, Senior Finance Professional and FCRA Expert.**
8. **Dr. Hiralal Nayak, Research and Development Professional with over 20 years of experience in Health, Nutrition and Gender.**
9. **Dr. Purnendu Mishra, Associate Professor- Allahabad University, Member-Supreme Court Bar Association & Allahabad High Court Bar Association.**
10. **Ms. Rinki Sharma, CA, Statutory Auditor, Fellow of ICAI**
11. **Mr. Santosh Gupta, CEO-ISRN with over 26 years of experience in Social Development Sector.**
12. **Mr. Ashish Mansharamani, Associate Director-ISRN with over 15 years of experience in Environment and Climate Action.**
13. **Mr. Samudra Naskar, General Manager-ISRN with over 15 years of experience in Social Development Sector.**

ISRN Board of Trustees Annual General Meeting



On 30th April 2025, Indian Social Responsibility Network (ISRN) convened its Annual General Meeting at the organization's head office in East of Kailash, New Delhi. The meeting brought together the Chairperson-Sh. Anil Khaitan, Vice-Chairperson- Dr. Ajit Kumar Malhotra and esteemed members of the Governing Board including Sh. Atul Tripathi ,Dr. Nitin Agrawal, Sh. Alok Shriram ,Sh. Santosh Gupta (CEO-ISRN) and Sh. Jagat Kinkhabwala, along with senior leadership and project heads, to reflect on the organization's progress and chart a path forward.

The gathering commenced with a warm welcome and felicitation of the Chairman and Board members by the ISRN team, setting the tone for an engaging and productive session.

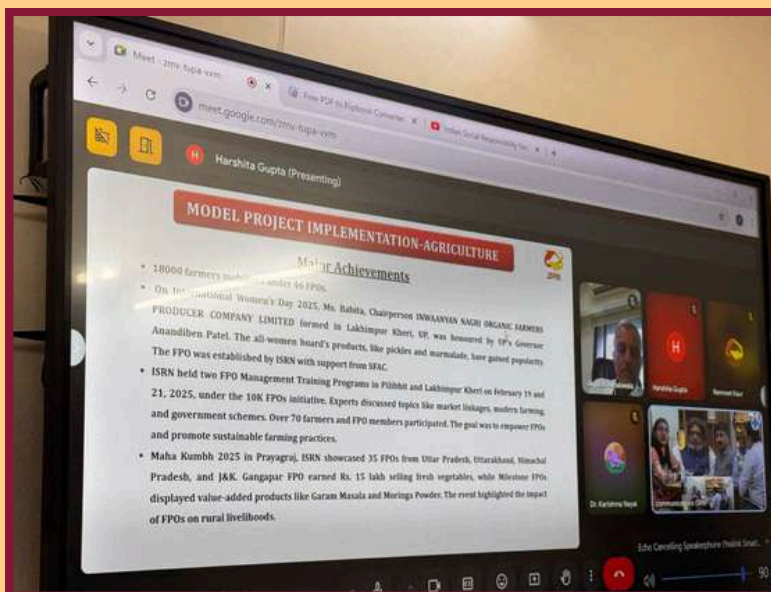
The project heads provided a comprehensive overview of ISRN's key activities from the past six months across various verticals—including Healthcare, Education, Agriculture, and Capacity Building, Research and Development. The team presented updates, highlighting on-ground achievements, innovations, and community impact. The session also featured a detailed financial report to ensure transparency and alignment on resource utilization. During the meeting, newly inducted Advisory Board Members were also introduced and shared insights on their upcoming roles in strengthening ISRN's strategic direction.

A notable highlight of the meeting was a presentation on ISRN's participation in prestigious global platforms—UN COP29 and UN CSW69—offering a glimpse into the organization's expanding engagement within the UN ecosystem and plans for future international collaboration.



The session continued with the tabling of board resolutions and a review of action points from the previous meeting. The discussion focused on the roadmap for the next six months, incorporating valuable suggestions from the Chairman and Governing Board members for upcoming projects. The meeting also featured the digital launch of the ISRN Annual Report 2024-25.

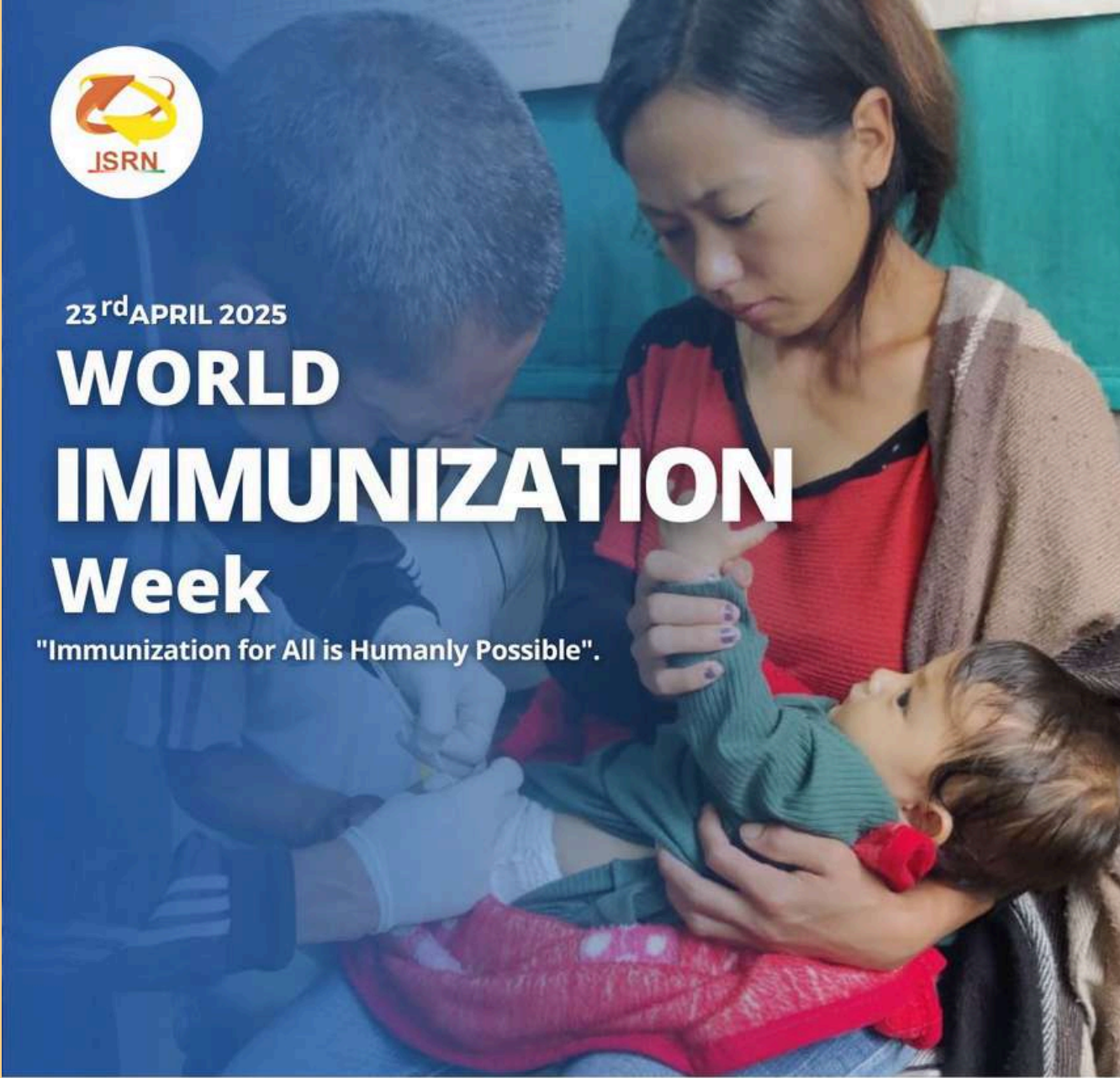
The Annual General Meeting not only served as a platform for reflection and strategic planning but also reaffirmed ISRN's mission of catalyzing impactful, community-centered development.






World Immunization Week 2025

In April, ISRN proudly joined the global movement to commemorate World Immunization Week 2025 through a digital awareness campaign. Through a series of engaging social media posts, we reinforced the importance of equitable access to life-saving vaccines across all stages of life—from infancy to older age.












23rd APRIL 2025

WORLD IMMUNIZATION Week

"Immunization for All is Humanly Possible".

 www.isrn.in "Relationship Building Beyond Funding" Follow us:      

Our messages focused on empowering communities with facts, combating vaccine-related myths, and emphasizing that "Immunization for All is Humanly Possible." We highlighted how vaccines not only save lives but also protect futures and foster resilient, healthy communities.

With the theme of inclusivity and protection at the heart of our campaign, ISRN remains committed to supporting awareness and access to immunization—ensuring that no one is left behind.



MYTHS vs FACTS

✗ **Myth : It's better to gain immunity through natural infection than vaccination.**

✓ **Fact:** Vaccines interact with the immune system to produce an immune response similar to that produced by the natural infection, but they do not cause the disease or put the immunized person at risk of its potential complications.



MYTHS vs FACTS

✗ **Myth : Vaccines are unnecessary because diseases are no longer common.**

✓ **Fact:** If we stop vaccination, deadly diseases will return. Even with better hygiene, sanitation, and access to safe water, infections still spread. When people are not vaccinated, infectious diseases that have become uncommon can quickly come back to haunt us.



MYTHS vs FACTS

✗ **Myth : Vaccine-preventable diseases are nearly eradicated, so vaccination is unnecessary.**

✓ **Fact:** Although vaccine-preventable diseases have become uncommon in many countries, the infectious agents that cause them continue to circulate in some parts of the world. In a highly interconnected world, these agents can cross geographical borders and infect anyone who is not protected.



MYTHS vs FACTS

✗ **Myth : Vaccines weaken immunity**

✓ **Fact:** Vaccines actually strengthen the immune system by preparing it to recognize and fight off specific diseases.



MYTHS VS FACTS

✗ Myth: Vaccines contain dangerous toxins

✓ Fact: Vaccines undergo rigorous testing and safety checks before being approved.



MYTHS VS FACTS

✗ Myth: Vaccines have severe side effects and long-term health consequences.

✓ Fact: Vaccines are very safe. Most vaccine reactions are minor and temporary, such as a sore arm or mild fever. Serious health events are extremely rare and are carefully monitored and investigated. You are far more likely to be seriously injured by a vaccine-preventable disease than by a vaccine.



Immunization for All Ages

"Protecting Every Generation, One Vaccine at a Time."



"Immunization for All is Humanly Possible"



ISRN'S NGO CLINIC PODCAST- EPISODE 15



The graphic is a promotional poster for ISRN's NGO Clinic Podcast Episode 15. It features a yellow background with a white ISRN logo in the top left corner. The title 'ISRN'S NGO CLINIC' is written in large, bold, dark red letters. Below it, 'PODCAST' is in a white box with a microphone icon, and 'EPISODE 15' is in large dark red letters. The theme 'The Power of Voice- Communication as a Catalyst for Social Impact' is in a white rounded rectangle. Two circular portraits of the host and speaker are shown, with their names and titles below them. The release date '29th APRIL 2025' is in a white box. The bottom of the graphic has a dark red bar with the website 'www.isrn.in', the tagline 'Relationship Building Beyond Funding', and social media icons for YouTube, Instagram, LinkedIn, Facebook, and WhatsApp.

ISRN'S NGO CLINIC
PODCAST  **EPISODE 15**

The Power of Voice- Communication as a Catalyst for Social Impact

Host
Mr. Santosh Gupta
CEO, ISRN

Speaker
MR. Ankit Vohra
National Planning Director,
McCann Worldgroup

**RELEASES ON YOUTUBE
PREMIERE
29th APRIL 2025**

www.isrn.in "Relationship Building Beyond Funding" Follow us:     

"The Power of Voice: Communication as a Catalyst for Social Impact"

In our latest Episode 15 of ISRN's NGO Clinic Podcast, our keynote speaker—Mr. Ankit Vohra, National Planning Director, McCann Worldgroup and our host, Mr. Santosh Gupta, CEO, ISRN, unlocks how strategic communication can fuel real, lasting social change.

Key Takeaways:

- Key lessons NGOs can adopt from global communication campaigns
- How to design impactful SBCC strategies
- Crafting inclusive and culturally sensitive messaging
- Balancing community voices with donor expectations authentically
- Grassroots storytelling that shapes national and global policies
- Harnessing design thinking and digital activism for greater outreach

If you or your organization passionate about amplifying your mission and connecting deeper with communities, this conversation is a must-watch.

[**Watch the full episode here!**](#)

ISRN believes that having a right to live in equality is something each human deserves and with support from esteemed 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.



Scan the QR code to
CONTRIBUTE

Thank you for reading!



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