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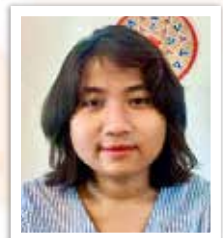
OPINION

As a NITI Aayog Aspirational Block Fellow assigned to Mandia Block, Barpeta District, I have observed the Citizens Foundation's activities over recent months. Their work has focused on health camps in underserved villages, basic health screening, promotion of nutrition gardens, and support to students from economically weaker backgrounds.

These interventions have contributed to improved access to primary services and have supported awareness among community members in selected sectors. The Citizens Foundation has maintained a consistent engagement approach aligned with local priorities.

Ritu Boro

NITI Ayog Fellow, Mandia, Barpeta



FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK



August has been a month of inspiring progress at Citizens Foundation, with new initiatives in livelihoods, healthcare, and education taking shape across diverse regions. From launching Project MEHFIL in Jammu & Kashmir to strengthening rural health, empowering farmers, and expanding access to quality education and healthcare, each step reflects our mission of building inclusive and resilient communities. I warmly invite you to explore the details of these initiatives in this edition of our newsletter and join us in celebrating the collective spirit of change.

Mr. Ganesh Reddy

Founder & CEO, Citizens Foundation | Secretary, UN GCNI

CITIZENS FOUNDATION WITH HDFC BANK-PARIVARTAN CSR LAUNCHES PROJECT MEHFIL :

to promote sustainable livelihoods & entrepreneurship in Jammu, Kashmir & Leh.



Citizens Foundation proudly launched Project MEHFIL (Mountain Entrepreneurship through Hospitality, Food, Inclusion & Livelihood), a transformative initiative supported by HDFC Bank under its Parivartan CSR program. The project is dedicated to fostering sustainable livelihoods, inclusive development, and entrepreneurship across Jammu, Kashmir, and Leh. As part of the launch, our team had the privilege of meeting Mr. Bilal Mohiuddin Bhat, District Magistrate of Budgam; Mr. Mehraj Uddin Shah, Additional Deputy Commissioner of Budgam; and Mr. Tafheem Firdous Shah, Block Development Officer of Budgam. Project MEHFIL aims to unlock local potential by strengthening mountain economies and promoting responsible entrepreneurship through opportunities in hospitality and livelihoods. This marks a meaningful step toward building a more inclusive, resilient, and sustainable future for the communities of J&K and Ladakh.



PROMOTING RURAL HEALTH THROUGH EARLY DETECTION!

Citizens Foundation, with LTIMindtree, screened 1,540 villagers for anemia, hypertension & BP across villages in Khunti, Jharkhand under IVDP.



Citizens Foundation, in collaboration with LTIMindtree, successfully conducted a Health Screening Camp in the villages of Cherwadag, Garke, and Kuda under the

Integrated Village Development Program (IVDP). The initiative focused on early detection and raising awareness about rural health issues. A total of 1,540 villagers were screened for anemia, hypertension, and blood pressure-related conditions. This effort marks a significant step toward improving community health by addressing common but often overlooked conditions through timely intervention and awareness. The camp also educated villagers on preventive healthcare practices, reinforcing the importance of regular health checkups in rural areas.



A PROUD MILESTONE FOR CITIZENS FOUNDATION:

Launch of IPD Services at Kalyan Hospital, Badachiru Chaibasa



We are pleased to announce the launch of In-Patient Department (IPD) Services at Kalyan Hospital, Barachiru, Chaibasa-a collaborative initiative by Citizens Foundation and the Tribal Welfare Department, Government of Jharkhand. This significant step enhances healthcare access for tribal communities by offering essential medical care and hospitalization closer to home. The new IPD facility aims to deliver compassionate, dignified, and timely treatment, ultimately improving health outcomes in the region. This milestone reflects our shared commitment to inclusive development and advancing community well-being through accessible and quality healthcare services for all.



TRANSFORMING RURAL EDUCATION:

Inauguration of Renovated School & Smart Classroom at Sagalee, Arunachal Pradesh.



A proud moment for Sagalee as the renovated school building and a new smart classroom were inaugurated, supported by HDFC Parivartan and Citizens Foundation to promote rural education through better infrastructure and digital innovation. Graced by Ms. Vishaka Yadav, IAS, Deputy Commissioner of Papum Pare, along with Smt. Yame Higio (ADC Sagalee), Shri Tagu Tana Tara (DDSE Papum Pare), Ms. Fema Taku (CO Toru), and Adv. Nabam Tatum Hina (OSD to HMLA 15th Sagalee), the event highlighted the importance of digital learning in bridging gaps in remote areas and the collective commitment to quality education for all.



BUILDING SELF-RELIANT COMMUNITIES IN ARUNACHAL PRADESH



Team Citizens Foundation undertook a two-day field visit to Sagalee, Arunachal Pradesh, under the HRDP project supported by HDFC Bank CSR Parivartan. The visit showcased remarkable progress across livelihood and infrastructure initiatives—from incense stick and orange processing units to poly houses, piggery farms, Farmer Producer Companies (FPCs), and health centers. Engaging directly with beneficiaries, the team witnessed strong community ownership and an encouraging demand for further capacity building and exposure opportunities.



STRENGTHENING LIVELIHOODS IN SIKKIM: :

High-yielding cardamom saplings + training for progressive farmers.



Citizens Foundation, under the HRDP-SIMANA Project in Sikkim supported by HDFC Bank Parivartan, has successfully carried out a cardamom sapling distribution initiative aimed at strengthening livelihoods in rural communities. The program reached 10 villages in Pakyong, where a total of 16,000 high-yielding cardamom saplings, including 800 vendor-contributed extras, were distributed to local farmers. In this initiative, 76 progressive farmers were each provided with 200 saplings, ensuring an equitable and impactful reach. Beyond distribution, the farmers are being supported with quality agricultural inputs, hands-on training, and pest control assistance. This holistic approach is designed to improve productivity, sustainability, and long-term income security for farming households.



SUSTAINABLE FARMING INTERVENTIONS FOR FLOOD-PRONE REGIONS :

Integrated Agri Farm-Mandia, Barpeta, Assam

Overview:

Jadabpur village, located in Mandia district, Assam, faces a challenge of flood submerged fields affecting 37.4 acres of farm land for about 50 farmers, threatening their livelihoods. In response, the Citizens Foundation and LTIMindtree Foundation launched the Integrated Village Development Program, initiating the Integrated Agri Farm at Jadabpur. With the High Yielding Variety of crop support, a floating duck farm was introduced for the first time, made of plastic drum to make it float and easy to move during flood, providing ducklings and finger lings as an alternate livelihood option for farmers, during those months. Additionally, vermin compost unit were also established to promote organic farming practices and to minimize the cost.



Challenges:

The primary challenge faced by the community was the frequent submergence of farm lands due to floods, impacting approximately 37.4 acres and affecting nearly 50 farmers. These floods not only damaged crops but also severely threatened the livelihoods of smallholder farmers, pushing many towards seasonal migration in search of alternative income sources. The lack of flood-resilient livelihood options and sustainable farming practices compounded the economic vulnerabilities of the villagers.

Impact:

The Integrated Agri-Farm initiative has significantly improved the livelihood and resilience of the local farming community. In just one cycle, over 300 ducks raised in floating sheds generated earnings of more than ₹ 1.5 lakhs for participating farmers. Encouraged by this success preparations for the next batch are underway, with income expected to increase by 30-40%. The integrated duck-cum-fish farming system has also enhanced fishery yields, with average house hold incomes projected to double from ₹ 8,000 to ₹ 16,000 due to the increased attraction of wild fish. Furthermore, the adoption of high-yielding paddy varieties and organic inputs has improved market rates from ₹1,200-1,500 to ₹1,400-2,000 per quintal, leading to a 15-25% rise in farm incomes. Collectively, these outcomes have helped reduce seasonal migration and laid the groundwork for a more sustainable, self-reliant rural economy.

This initiative stands as a replicable model of how community-led, climate-smart interventions can convert adversity into opportunity and promote inclusive rural development.

