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Strengthening Rural Livelihoods through Farmer Development Fair-Barpeta, Assam



More than 500 farmers, women SHG members, and youth participated in the Block Level Farmer Knowledge Exchange & Integrated Development

Fair organized under the IVDP initiative by Citizens Foundation with support from LTIMindtree.

The event connected farmers with key line departments including Agriculture, Fisheries, Animal Husbandry, and Health, enabling direct access to government schemes, technical guidance, and sustainable farming practices.

Exhibitions on flood-resilient agriculture, integrated farming, vermicomposting, and community infrastructure showcased innovative solutions for resilient and sustainable rural development.



New Agri Resource Centre Boosts Farmers' Access to Modern Tools at Sikkim

An Agri Resource Centre (ARC) has been successfully established at Lower Tareythang Ward, Bering Tareythang GPU under the HRDP-SIMANA Sikkim Project, implemented by Citizens Foundation with support from HDFC Bank Parivartan. The centre has been set up to enhance rural livelihoods by enabling farmers to access modern agricultural equipment, farming tools, and shared agricultural services.

On 18-03-2026, the ARC was inaugurated and officially handed over in the presence of Panchayat representatives, project staff, VDC members, and members of Roshni SHG.



Healthcare on Wheels:

Strengthening Community Health in Rural Areas in Meghalaya

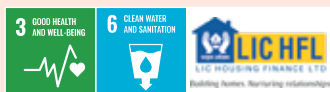


Under the SBI Foundation's Sanjeevani – Clinic on Wheels initiative, a specialized health camp was organized at Mynriang Village, East Khasi Hills in collaboration with Citizens Foundation. The camp provided dermatology consultations along with treatment for common health conditions, bringing essential healthcare services closer to underserved communities.

The initiative was supported by the village headman, Anganwadi workers, and local leaders, ensuring effective community mobilization and participation. During the camp, 157 villagers benefitted from free consultations, health screenings, and distribution of medicines.

The initiative not only addressed immediate health needs but also contributed to strengthening community awareness on preventive healthcare, reinforcing the commitment to accessible and inclusive healthcare for all.

A Step Towards Safe Drinking Water Access in Dholdahar Grant, Assam



Dholdahar Grant is a hilly village where residents have long faced challenges in accessing safe drinking water.

Earlier, villagers had to carry water from low-lying areas to higher elevations—a task that was physically demanding and time-consuming, often taking several hours. To address this issue, under the HRIDAY Project implemented by Citizens Foundation and supported by LIC HFL, two ring well units were installed in the village to improve water accessibility.

An inauguration programme was held on 17/03/2026, and the wells were formally handed over to the community. What once required long and tiring journeys is now just a few steps away. Around 50 households can now access water easily-saving time, reducing physical strain, and improving daily life.

Small infrastructure, big impact.



Mega Health Camp under Arogya Project in Udalbani Village



A mega health camp was successfully organized by Citizens Foundation in collaboration with ESL under the Arogya Project at Udalbani (Rath Tand) village.

The programme was inaugurated by senior CSR official Mr. S.R. Tripathi, who highlighted that the camp was a long-standing demand of the local community. He emphasized that the camp was designed to address the specific healthcare needs of the village and reaffirmed CSR's commitment to the well-being of the community.

The camp saw active participation from Dr. Sunil Kumar Singh, Dr. Nitendra Kumar, and Dr. Lalit Kishore of Kishore Dental Clinic, along with BJYM youth leader Mr. Ashish Sharma. Doctors provided valuable guidance on the prevention of common diseases, bone and nerve care, and dental hygiene. A total of 293 beneficiaries received medical consultations, medicines, and diagnostic services, making the initiative a significant step toward improving rural healthcare access.

Menstrual Health & Hygiene Awareness Camp in Dhanochi Village, Bihar



The SBI Foundation Sanjeevani – Clinic on Wheels team from Citizens Foundation organized an awareness camp on menstrual health and hygiene at the Higher Secondary School in Dhanochi Village, Purvi Katskara Panchayat, Chandan Block, Banka District.

During the session, adolescent girls were educated about menstruation, the importance of using sanitary napkins, and safe disposal practices. The programme witnessed active participation from 101 girls, along with the presence of local leaders, ASHA worker, and school teachers. Initiatives like these help break taboos and promote dignity, health, and confidence among young girls.



Field Visit Insights:

Advancing Sustainable Livelihoods under Project Mehfil



The Head Office team of Citizens Foundation recently conducted a comprehensive field visit under Project Mehfil, focusing on the

verification and identification of beneficiaries across multiple locations. The visit covered key sites including Hayatpora, Qazipora, Nobugh, Brinjan, Watakuloo, and Buzgoo for bakery unit interventions, along with K. Sarayi and Brinjan for milk processing initiatives. These interactions provided valuable insights into local needs, existing capacities, and opportunities for sustainable enterprise development.

A key highlight of the visit was the team's exposure to a newly developed hi-tech greenhouse in Nobugh, offering practical learnings and inspiration for upcoming poly greenhouse initiatives.

Project Mehfil operates under the Focused Development Program (FDP), supported by HDFC Bank CSR, aiming to promote skill-based livelihoods, strengthen local entrepreneurship, and enhance income opportunities. This



visit marks another important step toward fostering inclusive, resilient, and sustainable rural development.

Bringing Healthcare Closer: Strengthening Last-Mile Impact

Field visits by representatives of the SBI Foundation have significantly strengthened healthcare outreach and community engagement in rural areas. Ms. Anisha Shende visited Borguiya Village, where she engaged closely with the community, promoted hygiene practices, and distributed dental kits among children. She also reviewed the Clinic on Wheels services, highlighting the importance of accessible healthcare in remote regions.

Similarly, Ms. Megha Rani visited Mynriang Village to observe the Sanjeevani – Clinic on Wheels programme, appreciating the MMU team's dedication in delivering quality healthcare despite challenging terrain and weather conditions.

Additionally, Ms. Manisha, along with Mr. Chandra Shekhar, visited Jagmania Village, further strengthening grassroots engagement and community connect. Together, these visits reflect a strong commitment to expanding last-mile healthcare access and fostering healthier, more resilient communities.



CASE STUDY



Women-Led Livelihood Transformation through Handloom and Handicraft Centre in Pakyong District

Introduction:

The Handloom and Handicraft Centre in Pakyong District has emerged as a successful model of women-led livelihood transformation. Established to promote non-farm income generation, the centre has created sustainable livelihood opportunities for rural women while reducing dependence on agriculture. It has developed into a hub for skill development, production, and entrepreneurship, contributing to household income and community development.

Background:

In rural areas, women often depend on seasonal agriculture, which provides limited and uncertain income. To address this challenge, the centre was established to generate year-round livelihood opportunities through handloom and handicraft-based activities. By utilizing local resources, traditional skills, and collective participation through Self Help Groups (SHGs), the initiative has encouraged economic empowerment and self-reliance among women.

Objectives:

The key objectives of the centre are:

- ✓ Promote sustainable and inclusive livelihood opportunities for rural women
- ✓ Reduce dependence on seasonal agricultural income
- ✓ Build capacities in stitching, weaving, and handicraft production
- ✓ Encourage financial independence and self-reliance
- ✓ Strengthen SHGs and collective enterprise development
- ✓ Develop a skilled and empowered community of women entrepreneurs



Impact and Outcomes:

The initiative has generated significant socio-economic impact, with the centre earning approximately ₹6 lakhs annually and ensuring stable income for SHG members. It has reduced dependence on agriculture while enhancing women's confidence, leadership, and participation in household and community decision-making.

Continuous training has helped create a skilled and self-reliant workforce, transforming women into trained artisans and emerging entrepreneurs. The centre has also created local employment opportunities, reducing migration among women and youth.

Strong market linkages with the Government of Sikkim and other departments through regular bulk orders have ensured income stability and sustained demand. Product diversification such as school uniforms, traditional khadas, handicrafts, woolen items, and sanitary cloth pads has further expanded income sources.

Overall, the centre stands as an inspiring example of sustainable women-led rural development and a scalable model for replication in other regions.

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