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*Indian Schools Alumni & Friends
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I N S A F

INDIAN SCHOOLS ALUMNI AND FRIENDS NEWSLETTER

INSAF UNVEILS NEW WEBSITE — HEADS TOWARDS ANOTHER RECORD YEAR

Our combined funding of various projects in the Year 2021 is trending towards a record year. Year-to-date total project effort stands at about \$381,205 which compares with under \$300,000 in recent good years at this point in time.

About 91% of this project support to date this year has gone to the following 5 projects:

1. The covid relief grants to 5 organizations (Please see Page 4) at 23%
2. The Nanritam project (Please see Page 3) at 23%
Project Leader: Sh. Joginder Kundra
3. The Rotary Eye Institute project at 20%
Project Leader: Sh. Ramesh Patel
4. The Kanchan Foundation project (Please see Page 2) at 16%
Project Leader: Sh. Anop Vora and family
5. The Malvi Educational & Charitable Trust (Please see Page 6) at 9%
Project Leader: Sh. Ramesh Patel

Other projects in 2021 with support in the approx. 1% to 3% each range:

1. Calcutta Rescue (Project Leader Sh. Joginder Kundra)
2. Shankara Eye Foundation (Project Leader Sh. Joginder Kundra)
3. ARCH, Dharampur, Gujarat (Project Leader Sh. Ramesh Patel) Page 6
4. College Student Sponsorships in Kerala (Bhav & others at INSFAF) Page 4

As an annual update, Page 8 of the Newsletter has been updated to include only projects which were active during 2019-21. Is your old project no longer seen there? There is certainly time to bring it back into the "active" fold.

We extend a very warm welcome to the new Life Members:

- Sh. & Shmt. Suresh Patel, West Palm Beach FL
- Ms. Anita Sra, Chapel Hill NC (daughter of Late Sh Chani and Ms Wendy Sra)

For information, the INSFAF membership now totals 186.

If you have not done so yet, please do check out the content with drop down menus on the new INSFAF website at insafweb.org. Please contact the Editor with any questions on the projects, Website or the Newsletter.

The entire INSFAF team wishes all a very happy holiday season and a great year in 2022.

KANCHAN FOUNDATION AND THE VORA FAMILY CONTINUE INSPIRATIONAL COMMUNITY SERVICE

The Kanchan Foundation is a charitable foundation based in Mumbai and started more than 25 years ago by INSAF member Sh. Anop Vora and his brothers. Its operations are being conducted in India by a team of selfless volunteers led by Sh. Khanti Vora and his family members and relatives.

The Foundation spent about \$69,430 during the India fiscal year 2020-21 to help the disadvantaged as discussed below:

- Support for Education:** Over 650 students in Gujarat and Mumbai at various levels received scholarships. Some of these students are in professional courses such as engineering. In addition, notebooks, study materials, school uniforms and coaching assistance were provided to students from poor families in several villages in Gujarat. About \$57,720 was spent for these education related activities.

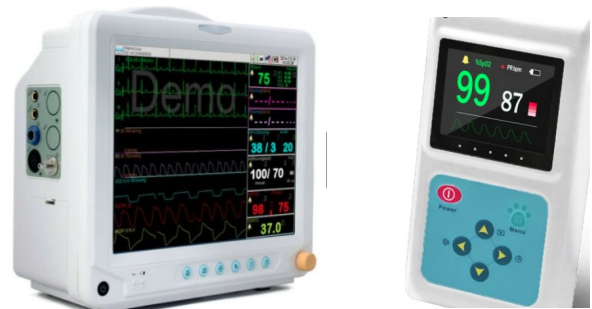


A few students after receiving notebooks at a school in Gujarat



A sample of books donated at a cost of about \$195 to help students in Pachhegam prepare for competitive examinations

- Help for Medical Care:** Financial help was provided to over 75 needy persons for their healthcare at a cost of about \$7,370. Four Pulse-Oximeters capable of also measuring blood pressure were donated to a children's cancer hospital in Kidwai, near Bangalore at a cost of about \$1,525.



Unicare F5 Multi Parameter Monitor/Oximeter

- Poverty Alleviation:** The Foundation provided groceries, sweets and buttermilk to the poor. Also, trees were planted as a part of its efforts in the Pachhegam area. These efforts to alleviate the effects of poverty cost about \$2,815.



Grocery Distribution in Pachhegam, Gujarat

PLEASE INTRODUCE INSAF TO OTHERS

The new INSAF website at insafweb.org is an excellent occasion to invite friends to become INSAF members. Anyone who believes in the concept of "giving back" to the less fortunate likely would find INSAF a worthwhile medium to accomplish just that. See "Why Join INSAF" tab under "About INSAF" on the website.

PRATHAM MYSORE CONTINUES INITIATIVES IN 2020-21

During 2020-21, Pratham Mysore's impactful work reached an impressive number of over 7,000 children in several districts of Karnataka. The key core areas are:

- Early childhood education for school readiness
- Basic literacy/numeracy for 6-14 yr olds in school

A major challenge during this time has been the covid pandemic. Pratham Mysore responded by adapting. An example of this was a set of 3-4 minute videos sent via WhatsApp to motivate parents to play the role of a teacher. Those 14 videos can be seen on Pratham Mysore's YouTube channel.

Assessments made at the beginning and the end of the Pratham Mysore program intervention led to significant improvements on the average in basic reading, comprehension, speaking, and math skills among the children.

With funding from several Rotary Districts and another US non-profit, Pratham Mysore also implemented an English literacy improvement project in 11 blocks of Karnataka. The project reached over 12,000 3rd-8th grade students in 200 government schools. It made good use of SMS and WhatsApp media and community participation, and resulted in significant improvements in English skills as shown by various assessments.



**An Assessment of skills in-progress for a child
(Pratham Mysore 2020-21 Annual Report)**

INSAF Member Sh. Arun Cariappa, Board Member Ms. Padma Tatta Cariappa and friends have been providing financial support for Pratham Mysore. Arun & Padma personally also volunteer there.

During 2020, a contribution of \$2,000 was sent to support the work at Pratham Mysore.

EXPANSION OF THE NANRITAM EYE HOSPITAL

Nanritam works among the deprived, downtrodden communities in the Purulia district of W. Bengal and nearby areas. Board Member Joginder Kundra family and several INSAF members and non-member friends are helping fund an expansion of the Nanritam Eye Hospital. During Jan 2020—Sep 2021, a total of \$183,784 has been contributed to fund the expansion of the eye hospital there.

Under this program, a brand new unit of operating theater complex and staff quarters for volunteer doctors and paramedical staff have been completed on an excellent timeline by August 2021.



A view inside the new operating theater (2021 photo)



Main Entrance Plaque Recognizing INSAF (2021 Photo)

A patient recovery ward is currently being built and is expected to be completed in June 2022.

More information on Nanritam is at nanritam.org.

NCERT PRODUCES VIDEO ON KALIYUVA MANE

The Divya Deepa Trust operates Kaliyuva Mane, a fully residential school located near Mysuru, for 100 children. These are "Out-of-System" children who dropped out of school due to poverty or other compelling circumstances. The objective of Kaliyuva Mane is to enable the forgotten children to be educated and to become self-sufficient citizens and assets to society.

Project Leaders Sh. Joginder Kundra and Dr. P. Harshavardhana and several other members and nonmembers support this program.

A 5-year effort has resulted in the following progress:

- A 2-story dormitory for up to 72 boys (2018).
- The girls dormitory for up to 32 students and 7 lady teachers (2020).
- A new kitchen and dining facility, along with modern living accommodations for 7 male teachers (2020-21). This facility can allow up to 200 people to enjoy their meal at one time.



Front view of the new dining hall and male staff quarters (2020-21)

Although the pandemic has made international travel more difficult, Board Member Ms. Padma Tatta Cariappa and two friends have continued their volunteer teaching of 10th standard children via Skype.

As part of teaching life skills, a number of children were taught hair cutting in a 10 day program. Now the boys can enjoy hair styling by their friends.

The National Council of Educational Research and Training of India (NCERT) has produced a very informative 40 minute film in English & Kannada on Kaliyuva Mane. To see this video, please search for "NCERT film on Kaliyuva Mane" on YouTube.com. The film also features an explanation of the philosophy behind the school by the founder Sh. Ananth Kumar.

More information is at <http://divyadeepatrust.org>



Kaliyuva Mane students learning hair cutting (2020-21)

During the calendar year 2020, a total of \$72,635 was sent to support the school.

INSAF SPONSORED NURSING STUDENTS MAKE PROGRESS DESPITE COVID PANDEMIC CHALLENGES

For a number of years, a group of INSAF members have been supporting a few students in Kerala for their higher education at a cost in the range of \$1,750 per student per year.

We are happy to report that Hima Sebastian, whose final year exams were substantially delayed due to the pandemic costing her more expense and almost a year, has completed her B.Sc. Nursing and has landed a paid internship. The internship at a private hospital in Kannoor will pay her Rs 8,000/mo. Her financial support from INSAF was partially extended into a 5th year.

Our 2nd student, Aleena Stephen, is expected to finish her B.Sc. Nursing in 2022, the pandemic permitting.

The INSAF team has committed to support another student, Shivani Rajan, starting in 2022.

ONLINE CONTRIBUTIONS TO INSAF

At INSAFWEB.ORG, there is an option at the top of the home page which says "DONATE". You can conveniently donate via PayPal with just a few clicks anytime 24/7. No need to write and mail a check. The flip side is that although 100% of your contribution is tax deductible, a fee will be deducted by PayPal. In most cases, about 97.5% of the funds will be really available for your project. However, convenience is a big plus.

Of course, 100% of the contributions sent via a check or the interbank ACH transfer are actually received.

INSAF MEMBERS & FRIENDS CONTRIBUTE ADDITIONAL FUNDS TO HELP THE NEEDY AFFECTED BY COVID-19

The Covid-19 pandemic has affected poor people around the world the most severely. In the Yr 2020, INSAF Members & Friends had raised \$44,500 to support the covid relief work of 5 organizations. Given the high levels of Covid cases worldwide in 2021, especially earlier this year in India, an additional amount of \$89,403 was contributed for the Covid relief work for the organizations listed below:

- **Calcutta Rescue**, \$14,736. Calcutta Rescue provided food and medical services for the disadvantaged people in and around Kolkata.
- **DIRECT RELIEF INTERNATIONAL**, \$3,875. Direct Relief is a humanitarian organization based in the US, serving people since 1948 in over 80 countries, including India.
- **GOONJ**, \$22,375: Goonj India which works to help marginalized people, organized a "Rahat Covid" (Covid Relief) program to help the needy in several states of India
- **INDIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY**, \$2,875. The Society obtained ventilators, CPAP/Bi PAP machines, and oxygen cylinders and handed them to the Indian Ministry of Health & Family Welfare for distribution to medical facilities.
- **NANRITAM**, \$45,902: Nanritam is based in the Purulia district of West Bengal which in 2006 was named among India 250 most backward districts (out of about 640). Nanritam provided food ration packs and meals to the poor in 17 blocks of Purulia district.



Nanritam distributing ration supplies in one of their many Covid relief activities (Nanritam website photo)

The above Yr 2021 donations bring the total amount of Covid relief funding to \$133,903. Many thanks to the donor INSAF Members and Friends for their generosity.

INSAF AND SODHANA PROGRAMS IN ANDHRA

A group of INSAF members sent \$13,500 to support several initiatives with Chipurupalli, A.P. based Sodhana.

A snapshot of work in 2020-21 follows.

1. **TWO PRESCHOOLS:** The two preschools had a combined total of 39 children, taught by a teacher and an assistant teacher in each school. Funding is provided for mid-day meals and the teacher's salary.
2. **QUALITY OF PRIMARY EDUCATION:** Trained volunteers (paid an honorarium) will strengthen the quality of Primary School education in village schools for 3 years. The goal is to demonstrate the concept to the Andhra State govt.



A volunteer teacher in a class (2020-21)

3. **WOMEN EMPOWERMENT:** INSAF partially funds 4 coordinators for a bank microfinance program for women self-help groups (SHGs) who get small loans to improve their economic condition. The coordinators are liaisons between the SHGs and the bank as the women lack the skills for the paperwork required. In 2020-21, a total of 1,116 women were assisted and the average loan amount was Rs 53,760.
4. **MEDICAL SERVICES:** INSAF funding provides free medicines through a primary care doctor at Sodhana. About \$3,400 was provided for this in 2019-20.
5. **PRATIBHA SCHOLARSHIPS:** A total of 15 students from poor families (3 each from grades 6-10) receive a modest scholarship of Rs 500 for educational needs.
6. **POST-MATRIC SCHOLARSHIPS:** Recipients from poor families get help with college tuition, books, uniforms, smartphones, and guidance under this program until they finish college education. Two students are selected each year. Currently, 9 students are in this program.

For more information, please send an inquiry to the Editor.

ARCH SERVES TRIBAL POOR IN GUJARAT

ARCH (Action Research In Community Health and Development), based in Dharampur, Dist. Valsad, Gujarat, has been striving to provide affordable cost medical care to the tribal poor in 24 villages for the last 20 years. INSAF members Ramesh & Jyoti Patel have been supporting ARCH. Contributions of \$1,752 in 2020 and \$3,000 in 2021 have been sent to support the much-needed work by ARCH.



Health check-up being performed on a mother in Valsad Dist.

ARCH operates a maternal child health program, which includes home visits. In addition, ARCH has dispensaries in Dharampur and Vavar, and an infertility clinic. Although covid has affected these services, in normal times, ARCH reaches about 46,000 people through the dispensaries, and about 50,000 people for health awareness.

ARCH actually provides a range of services beyond its core service of low cost healthcare. During 2020-21, ARCH also provided the following services:

- **COVID RELIEF:** ARCH provided 330 ration kits to 200 families who for various reasons could not get a supply from the public distribution system.
- **CHILDHOOD EDUCATION:** ARCH operates a Balwadi (pre-school) and Tuition Center where children learn listening and speaking before reading and writing to develop their comprehension and expression skills. In addition, the Balwadi and Center teach early childhood math, science with fun activities, helping about 300 children. Remedial math is being taught to about 350 students under a 2-year project. ARCH has also published about 20 children's learning books translated to Gujarati as the children are in Gujarati medium schools.

MALVI EDUCATION TRUST RECEIVES SIGNIFICANT DONATIONS FOR SHANTABA VIDYALAY, GUJARAT

Malvi Education Charitable Trust (MECT) operates the Shantaba Vidyalyay (school) in Kukeri, Gujarat to provide high quality, free or very low cost education to tribal children from pre-school to Class 12.

During 2020-21, MECT received a few major donations:

- **TATA BUS:** A 36-seater bus was donated by SBI Mutual Funds. The bus will help safely transport the school students.
- **POWER BACKUP GENERATOR:** A 45 HP generator donated by a donor will help support the needs of 500 students during power cuts.
- **LAND FOR LIVELIHOOD ACTIVITY CENTER:** Another generous donor provided funds for the purchase of 1 acre near the school, where a center for the teaching of livelihood skills is planned.
- **DIGITAL RESOURCE CENTER & TABLETS:** Yet two other donors helped set up a resource center with 100 tablets where students can access learning materials in situations like the covid pandemic. Projector and internet facilities have already existed for specialized coaching/teaching by expert volunteers.



Tablet based learning

Students Learning via the Donated Tablets (2020-21)

MECT is also supporting 63 alumni for their post-secondary education. MECT is exploring a partnership with ARCH (see article on the left) for setting up an activity-based curriculum for middle school Science and Math. INSAF Members Ramesh & Jyoti Patel and others have also been supporting the MECT. Donations of \$10,000 in 2020 and \$34,682 in 2021 have been sent to support the school.

2021 CONTRIBUTIONS

Here is a menu of project types for you to consider for your 2021 contribution. Broadly, INSAF projects are in the areas of education, community development, and community service. Please see Page 8 for specific recent projects. Please print the sheet below, mark your choice (s) and enter the tax-deductible dollar figure you would like to contribute. Don't see a cause you would rather support? Feel free to start something new for your idea with a contribution, and one of the INSAF colleagues will be in touch.

Choice	2021 Contribution	Type of Project	Additional Information
1	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ _____	Community Development	Build some durable facility or initiate service of long-term recurring value to a community
		Education	Examples:
	A \$ _____	A. Teacher Staff Support	• Fund a stipend for volunteers at a school
2	<input type="checkbox"/> B\$ _____	B. Sponsor a specific student	• Help a specific student from a poor family or at an orphanage (several years commitment)
	C\$ _____	C. Grant to a school for scholarships, books, or incentive awards	• Make a grant to a school for operations or tuition/books/scholarship for students as an incentive to perform better, or to award a teacher
3	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ _____	Community and Health Services	Fund needed services for the poor
4	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ _____	Women's Empowerment	Fund a program which aims to help women
5	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ _____	Literacy Improvement	Fund efforts to increase literacy
6	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ _____	Hunger Alleviation	Fund food services for the poor
7	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ _____	Animal Welfare	Grant funds for care of stray animals in major urban centers
8	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ _____		Start a new project based on your idea. Please send an e-mail to sharma7336@gmail.com

Membership Contribution:

☐ \$150/Couple Life-Membership ☐ \$100/Single Life-Membership ☐ \$15/Couple or \$10/Single Annual-Membership

NAME(S) & ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____ E-MAIL _____

TOTAL TAX DEDUCTIBLE CONTRIBUTION (payable to INSAF): \$ _____

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Please mail your check payable to INSAF and this sheet to:

Ms. Padmashri Lad, INSAF, 137 Seagate Drive, San Mateo, CA 94403

INSAF PROJECTS: Recent projects and Leaders/Coordinators are listed below. More information may be obtained through the Editor. Kindly do let the Editor know of any errors and omissions including any corrections to the listings.

- **Adivasi Unnati Mandal, Mumbai [Community Service]**
Dr. Mahendra & Ms. Jyoti Nanavati
- **Animal Aid Unlimited, Udaipur, Rajasthan [Animal Welfare]** Ms. Aruna Marathé
- **ARCH - Action Res. In Community Health & Dev., Gujarat [Community Service]** Sh. Ramesh & Ms. Jyoti Patel
- **Balabhavan Nazareth Student Support, Paduapuram, Kerala [College Education of Specific Youth]:** Sh. Arun & Ms. Padma Tatta Cariappa, Dr. Santosh Chokhani, Sh. Joginder & Ms. Meera Kundra, Dr. Raj & Ms. Padmashri Lad, Dr. A.J. & Ms. Thankamma Poulouse, Dr. Bhav & Ms. Kaye Sharma
- **Calcutta Rescue, Kolkata, W. Bengal [Community Dev]**
Sh. Asok Baral, Sh. Joginder Kundra, and Friends
- **Dardionu Rahat Fund, Ahmedabad [Community Service]**
Dr. Mahendra & Ms. Jyoti Nanavati
- **Dardi Sahayak, Ahmedabad [Community Service]**
Dr. Mahendra & Ms. Jyoti Nanavati
- **Divya Deepa Charitable Trust, Mysore, Karnataka [Community Dev & Education]** Dr. P. Harshavardhana, Sh. Joginder Kundra, and Friends
- **Ekal Vidyalay [Literacy]**
Sh. Joginder & Ms. Meera Kundra,
- **Govt. Girls Senior Secondary School, Narnaul, Haryana [Education]:** Om & Veena Garg c/o Bhav
- **Govt. Senior Secondary School, Bhaee Rupa (Bhatinda), Punjab [Motivation of Students]** Dr. Bhav & Ms. Kaye Sharma
- **Jain Swetamber M.V. Mitra Sangh, Ahmedabad, Gujarat [Community Service]** Dr. Mahendra & Ms. Jyoti Nanavati, Sh. Pankaj & Ms. Rupa Nanavati
- **Kanchan Foundation, Bhavnagar, Gujarat [Community Service]** Dr. Anop & Ms. Renuka Vora Families
- **Makunda Christian Leprosy & General Hospital, Karimganj, Assam [Community Service]** Mr. Jesudas P. Sundararajan & Mrs. Rajasingh P. Valarmathy
- **Malvi Educational & Charitable Trust/Shantaba Vidyalay, Kukeri, Gujarat [Education]**
Sh. Ramesh & Ms. Jyoti Patel
- **Manjari Sankurathri Memorial Foundation, A.P. [Community Dev]** Sh. Sikandar Tuli
- **Manav Kalyan Trust, Navsari, Gujarat [Community Service]** see next column
- **Nanritam, Purulia, W. Bengal [Community Dev]**
Sh. Joginder & Ms. Meera Kundra
- **Panjab University, Chandigarh [Motivation of Students]**
Chem. Eng. Class of 1969 Alumni & Bibi Amrit Kaur Scholarships c/o Dr. Bhav Sharma/Sh. Pritinder Singh Arora
- **Pingalwara Charitable Society, Amritsar, Punjab [Community Service]** Sh. Kumar & Ms. Sudesh Kapur
- **Polio Foundation, Ahmedabad [Community Service]**
Dr. Bipin & Ms. Kalpana Shah
- **Pratham Mysore, Karnataka [Literacy]** Sh. Arun & Ms. Padma Tatta Cariappa, Family and Friends
- **Sh. Raj. Adhyatmik Sadhana Kendra, Koba, Gujarat [Community Service]** Dr. Mahendra & Ms. Jyoti Nanavati, Dr. Bipin & Ms. Kalpana Shah
- **RESQ Charitable Trust, Pune [Animal Welfare]**
Ms. Aruna Marathé
- **Ruchika-INSAF Platform School, Bhubaneswar & Education Center, Paradeep, Odisha [Education]**
8 INSAF Families & the India X Peace Corps Group c/o Bhav & Kaye
- **Sambalpur University, Odisha [Education],** Sh. Bhim & Dr. Hemlata Bhakoo
- **Sankara Eye Foundation, USA [Eye Care Services]**
Sh. Joginder & Ms. Meera Kundra
- **Seva Bharti, Abohar, Punjab [Community Service]**
Sh. P.K. & Ms. Suresh Malhotra & Family and Friends
- **SODHANA — Ramalingapuram, P'valasa A.P. [Community Dev, Women's Empowerment, & Education]** Dr. Santosh Chokhani, Dr. Gopal & Ms. Shibani Ghose Chotani, Dr. Krishan & Dr. Vimal Goyle, Sh. Joginder & Ms. Meera Kundra, Dr. Raj & Ms. Padmashri Lad, Dr. AJ & Ms. Thankamma Poulouse, Dr. Jay & Ms. Shashi Shetty, Dr. Manoj & Ms. Maneesha Shrivastav, Dr. Bhav & Ms. Kaye Sharma
- **SOS Children's Home, Rajpura, Punjab [Education of Specific Children]** Sh. Kumar & Ms. Sudesh Kapur, Sh. Joginder & Ms. Meera Kundra, Dr. Raj & Ms. Padmashri Lad, Dr. Ashok & Ms. Usha Sachdev with Ms. Sucheta Sachdev, Dr. Bhav & Ms. Kaye Sharma
- **S.D. Girls Sr. Sec. School, Hoshiarpur, Punjab [Education]**
Sh. Surinder & Ms. Nirmal Maheshwary & Family