

ANNUAL REPORT

National Development Foundation



Message from President



Rajiv Khajuria
President
National Development Foundation

I am pleased to note that the National Development Foundation, NDF, has entered its 33rd year since inception, marking the fourth decade of its journey in helping and empowering communities in need in Jammu and Kashmir. NDF's consistent and dedicated efforts have not only brought about positive changes in the lives of those it serves but have also inspired others to undertake similar work.

In 2024-25, NDF's main focus remained on Education, Child Protection, and research at the Kishtwar High Altitude National Park, which the Hon'ble LG J&K, Sh. Manoj Sinha, officially praised, among other senior officials. It is encouraging to note that in 2024-25, we worked on strengthening three-tier community-based rehabilitation mechanisms, central to Mission Vatsalaya, in addition to improving early identification of disabilities, FLN, and ECCE.

I assure the NDF's well-wisher beneficiaries and partners that we will continue to work diligently with the same enthusiasm and expect all possible support from stakeholders in the best interests of the communities we serve.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Rajiv Khajuria". The signature is stylized and fluid.

Rajiv Kumar Khajuria

Acknowledgement



Arti Sharma
Chief Executive Officer
National Development Foundation

I am pleased to present the annual report of the National Development Foundation for the year 2024-25. We thank our community representatives, volunteers, members of various civil societies, and NDF board members for their ongoing support throughout the year.

We express our gratitude for the contributions of our employees at all levels. Our steady growth has been made possible by their dedicated efforts. We thank the Government of the UT of Jammu and Kashmir, especially the Police, School Education Department, Directorate of Samagra Shiksha J&K, Directorate of School Education Jammu, Mission Vatsalaya, Department of Social Welfare, UNICEF, Department of Wildlife Protection, and other government agencies for their support. We look forward to their continued support in the future.

We also thank our research partners, Jawaharlal Nehru University, the University of Kashmir, and the Central University of Jammu. We appreciate the district administrations of various districts in Jammu and Kashmir, where we have our operations and interventions. My special thanks go to the children, youth, and communities we work for; without their active participation, achieving the desired results would have been impossible.



Arti Sharma
Chief Executive Officer

Index

1. About Us, Our Approach, Our Mission, Vision, Our Belief and Our Values	1 - 2
2. Organisational chart	3
3. Children & Youth Empowerment	4 - 6
a. Child Protection	
b. Education c. WASH	
d. Youth Empowerment & Skill Development	
e. DRR & Emergency Responses	
4. Nature, Wildlife & Climate Change	6 - 8
5. Annual Report Overview	9
6. Education	10 - 17
6.1 Key Achievements	11
6.2 Key Areas	12
6.3 School Readiness Camps	13
6.4 Parent-Teacher Meetings	14
6.5 Equitable and Inclusive Education with a Focus on Early Identification of Disabilities.	15
6.6 ECCE Leadership Workshop	16
6.7 Teacher Capacitated on EWS	17
7. Child Protection	18 - 22
7.1 Key Achievements	19
7.2 Formation of a child-friendly Police station at Rajouri	20
7.3 Community Mobilisation on Child Rights and Child Protection	20
7.4 Involving Children, Adolescents & Youth in Colleges/Schools to promote Child Protection	21
7.5 Strengthening the Child Protection Mechanism at the Block and Village-Level Through block and village-level Child Welfare & Protection Committees	22
8. Research Project KHANP	23 - 28
8.1 Snow Leopard Conservation Programme	25
8.2 Completion of Scientific Reports under the Kishtwar High Altitude National Park Project	27
8.3 Black-necked Crane Book Released	28
9. Press releases	29
10. Audit Reports	30-32

About Us

The National Development Foundation (NDF) is a grassroots NGO that has been working for the last thirty years, focusing on Children, Youth, and Women in areas such as Education, Child Protection, WASH, health, DRR, Skills and environmental and wildlife protection. The organisation is well-acquainted with local situations and has a strong presence in many districts across Jammu & Kashmir. NDF has achieved positive changes in the lives of children, youth, and communities it has served and has performed commendably over the past three decades. The government, communities, and supporters have appreciated and recognised our efforts. For more information, please visit our website at www.ndf.net.in.

NDF works with the target communities' active participation and close collaboration with the government and has signed MoUs with the state government / DM of the districts it operates in to give momentum to the mission. Besides this, many government circulars are in place to support the programmes and activities of the NDF. NDF was awarded the best NGO State award by the NYKS Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Govt. of India in 1996-97. Furthermore, NDF has received numerous state and district-level awards and recognition from the government.

Our Approach

We explore opportunities to create developmental and conservation models through our programmes with the active participation of Govt. and the communities we work for. Such models are then used as demonstrations and examples of what can be achieved, and we advocate for their replication and wider take-up by the Government and other service providers. We work to improve systems, supplement existing schemes, and link marginalised communities to such projects, which the Government mainly runs.

Our Mission

To create an environment where everyone exercises their rights with dignity and lives in harmony with nature.

Our Vision

To empower communities, particularly children and youth, to realise their rights, creating opportunities for their development and conservation of nature and natural resources.

Our Belief

National Development Foundation (NDF) believes sustainable change is impossible without the Civil Society's proactive involvement in the development process, particularly among Children, Youth and Women. National Development Foundation works with them to make them partners in its mission. We believe that community involvement can transform the dynamics of any civil society intervention. The participation of community members ensures that programmes respond directly to their priorities. By empowering community members, we see a range of practical benefits, including increased capacity and skills of local community members, greater beneficiary engagement, increased information sharing, and better programme outcomes for both the organisation and the beneficiaries.

Our Values

Credibility: We work efficiently with optimum utilisation of resources and are accountable to communities, partners, and donors. We set the highest standards of personal commitment toward our work.

Proactive: We set high goals, work proactively to achieve them, and are committed to improving our quality of work.

Innovation: We are open to new ideas that can bring sustainable changes to the lives of the communities we work for, particularly children and youth and nature conservation. We learn from the past and improve/organise for the future.

Organisational Chart



Children, Youth and Women Empowerment

(Child Protection, Education, WASH, Youth and Women Empowerment, Skill Development, Disaster risk reduction & Emergency response)

Child Protection

National Development Foundation works and collaborates with various Government and non-government stakeholders in creating a protective environment for children free from all forms of violence, abuse, exploitation, and neglect; strengthening community-based child protection mechanisms through effective implementation of child protection policies, legislation, services, and schemes; advocating and influencing legal and policy reforms in line with Global Conventions on the Rights of the Child ratified by Govt. of India in the state of J&K; and utilizing a child rights programming framework keeping in mind the cross-cutting themes of child participation, non-discrimination and best interest of children while working with and for children for the realisation of their Rights.

We are strengthening health systems and nutrition services for all children and women, effectively implementing health/medical schemes, preventing child marriage and reducing adolescent pregnancies, and providing infrastructure and health services to improve the health status of communities.

Education

National Development Foundation, NDF collaborate with various Government and non-governmental stakeholders and works towards ensuring every child, especially the most marginalised those in greater danger of being left behind like girls and children with disabilities, enjoy their right to equitable and quality Education from early learning opportunities to secondary Education so that they reach their full potential; work for effective implementation of education policies, legislations, schemes and services; strengthening policy and legal reforms in line with the right to Education and providing infrastructure to improve education services.

Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

National Development Foundation, NDF aims to improve general public health and transform the lives of communities by improving their access to safe Water, sanitation and hygiene; work and build partnerships with Government and non-governmental stakeholders to empower and enable communities to demonstrate sustainable WASH solutions to influence policy; improve access to water supply by leveraging government resources; construct toilets to stop open defecation for universal toilet use at households, school, institutions, and public places; improve hygiene practices by promoting knowledge and motivating change on main hygiene behaviours; strengthening linkages between government WASH facilities/schemes and communities, and promote safe waste management and disposal.

Youth Empowerment and Skill Development

National Development Foundation, NDF aims at creating a pool of young and independent people from a section of eligible and underprivileged youth and women through skill upgradation and livelihoods in accordance with market requirements to aid economic growth; skill up- gradation through vocational training of deserving and most marginalised youth and women; Gender equity and women empowerment; development and empowerment of youth and adolescents by utilising their limitless energies and potential through, Camping, Leadership programmes, Sports, cultural, literary and other youth activities which can inculcate among them a sense of patriotism, selfless service, the dignity of labour, fraternity, brotherhood and overall discipline in a broader sense.

DRR and Emergency Response

National Development Foundation, NDF aims to build resilience and reduce the vulnerability of communities, especially children, youth, and women, by improving community preparedness for emergencies.

In the aftermath of natural disasters, work and collaborate with Government and non-governmental stakeholders to reach out to the most marginalised & needy families affected by natural disasters to respond to their immediate essential needs and long-term rehabilitation; to promote and build leadership among children, youth, and women through community-based approaches enabling them to participate in the decision-making process to respond effectively to humanitarian crises; and provide child-friendly spaces to cater to the children's psychological, nutritional, medical and protection needs.

Nature, Wildlife and Climate Change

- **Himalayan Wildlife and Environment Protection**

National Development Foundation, NDF aims to work with a wide range of stakeholders to conserve and protect Himalayan Wildlife and critical ecosystems for continued social, economic and environmental benefits. This NDF programme focuses on environmental protection, conservation, and awareness-building partnerships with the Government, research institutions, educational institutions, and civil society organisations. NDF aims to effective implementation of environment & wildlife-related policies & legislation. To achieve the overall objectives of nature and wildlife conservation, we aim to work closely with communities, as well as several leading scientists, conservationists, educators, and experts from varied professional backgrounds with a passion for the conservation of nature and natural resources. As part of this programme, the focal area of our work will be Northern India in general and the Western Himalayas in particular. Ecotourism initiatives in natural areas and key wildlife habitats will be promoted as a means of nature conservation and to provide alternate sources of livelihood.

• **Climate Mitigation and Adaptation**

National Development Foundation, NDF aims to focus on various climate mitigation and adaptation strategies for reducing the impacts of climate change. It will be achieved by organising focused awareness programmes on the latest climate adaptation and mitigation strategies for Himalayan communities through watershed development and tree planting drives, as well as by promoting environmentally sustainable practices. The demonstration of environment-friendly pilot projects and policies and advocacy with the government to strengthen environmental policies and frameworks will be key areas of our work. The main focus of the NDF's climate adaptation and mitigation programme is creating awareness among a wide range of stakeholders about conserving nature and natural resources in their immediate vicinity. Healthy natural ecosystems will be promoted as a natural solution to deal with Climate Change at a regional level. Sustainable agricultural practices will also be promoted as a likely climate adaptation and mitigation strategy.

• **Water and Wetlands**

National Development Foundation, NDF aims to document wetlands and wetland biodiversity of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh through on-the-ground research and citizen science initiatives. To achieve this, the NDF will focus on developing strategies for conserving protected areas, especially National Parks, Wildlife Sanctuaries, and Wetland Conservation Reserves of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh. The programme will also focus on developing an alternate model for conservation within and outside protected areas. One of the key components of this programme will be biodiversity monitoring and conservation planning. This activity will generate knowledge through applied research and outreach activities. The programme aims to improve the management of biodiversity and ecosystems through various outputs to influence existing policies and conservation planning.

- **Snow Leopard Programme**

Snow Leopard *Panthera uncia*, the smallest member of the genus *Panthera*, is the most elusive cat inhabiting the cold and rugged mountain landscapes of the Great and Trans Himalayas in the western Himalayas. Its secretive behaviour, camouflage, and adaptation to extreme environmental conditions make it one of the most charismatic species in the world. At NDF, we have embarked on a comprehensive research and conservation initiative with support from the Department of Wildlife Protection and the Government of J&K. This programme has a special focus on protecting the snow leopard and its fragile habitats. NDF is the first organisation which has reported snow leopards in Kishtwar High Altitude National Park J&K.

Partners & Donors



Annual Report

2024 – 25 Overview

In 2024-25, the National Development Foundation worked on strengthening child protection mechanisms in Jammu and Kashmir. The NDF and other child protection stakeholders collaboratively addressed critical gaps in the child protection system by establishing a three-tier Child Welfare and Protection Committee at the District, Block, and Village levels. Their focus was on capacity building, community engagement, and creating child-friendly spaces. Training programmes for police officers, JJB, CWC, and DCPU officials improved their understanding of child rights and protection, resulting in increased confidence in service delivery. The formation of Block Level and Village Level Child Welfare and Protection Committees encouraged community ownership and participation. Additionally, efforts included strengthening Child-Friendly Policing and establishing mechanisms under the Juvenile Justice Act.

In the education sector, NDF focused on strengthening early childhood care and education, foundational literacy and numeracy, parent-teacher engagement, early identification of disabilities, and early warning systems for students at risk of dropping out, as outlined in the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.

The first-ever research project of the Kishtwar High Altitude National Park and the key Wildlife Programme, namely the Snow Leopard Conservation Programme, gained momentum in 2024-25.

Education

The National Development Foundation (NDF) successfully implemented a comprehensive programme focused on strengthening Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE), Foundational Learning and Numeracy (FLN), and initiatives for Out-of-School Children (OOSC) in Jammu and Kashmir. This effort addressed critical gaps in the education system and had a notable impact on the lives of young children. The National Development Foundation (NDF) works across ten targeted schools in Jammu. The programme emphasised localised Early Warning Systems, supporting the integration of Out-of-School Children, piloting early disability detection, and building capacity for effective FLN implementation in schools.



The main focus is on providing children with a strong foundation during their formative years, ensuring their holistic development in a child- friendly environment.

Key Achievements



42 teachers capacitated & 898 students monitored on EWS



106 officials sensitized during Inclusive Education Workshop



100 education functionaries trained on ECCE



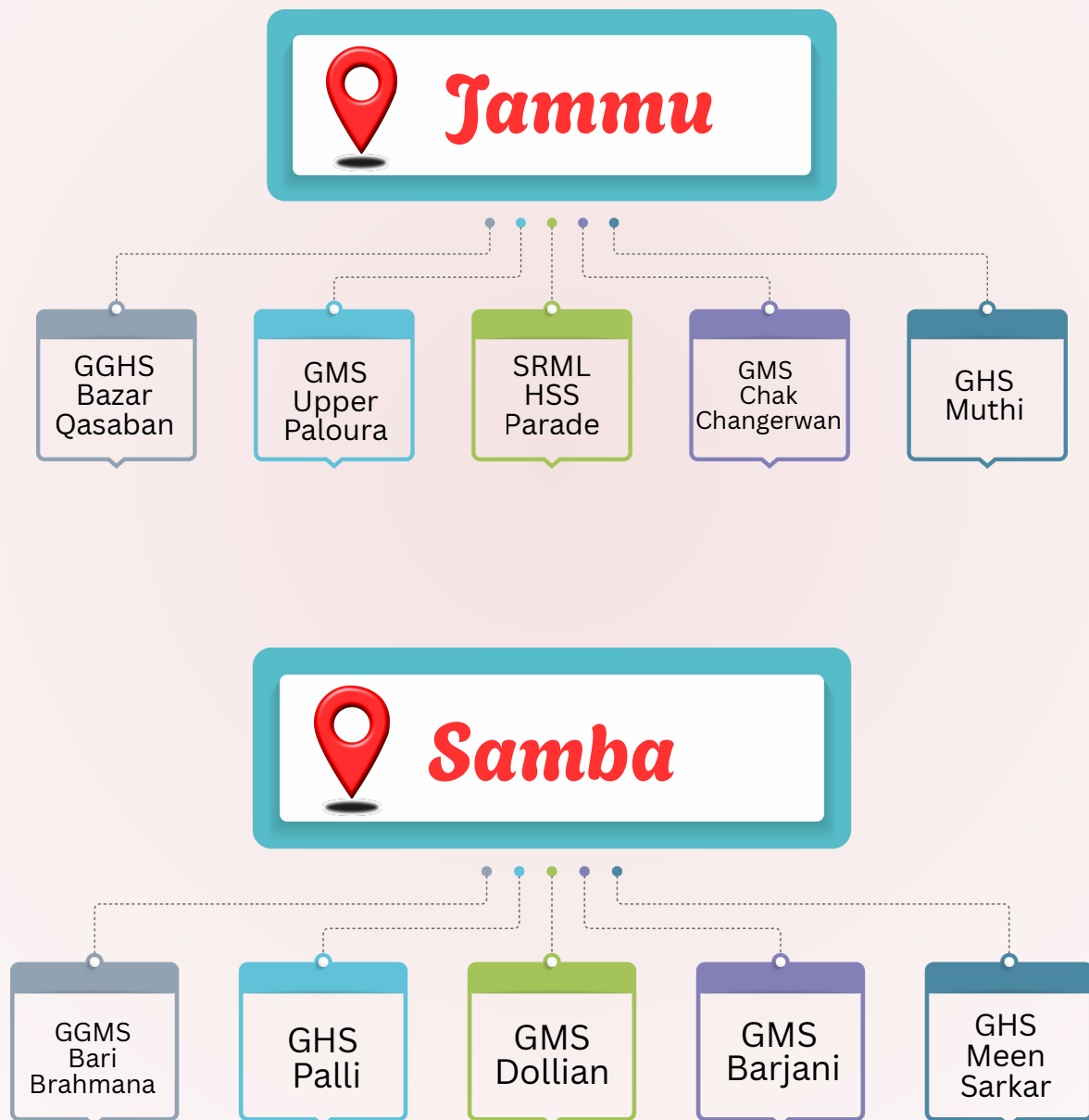
20 School Readiness Camps with participation of 1,166 children and 637 parents.



20 Parent-Teacher Engagement Meetings held, involving 418 parents and teachers

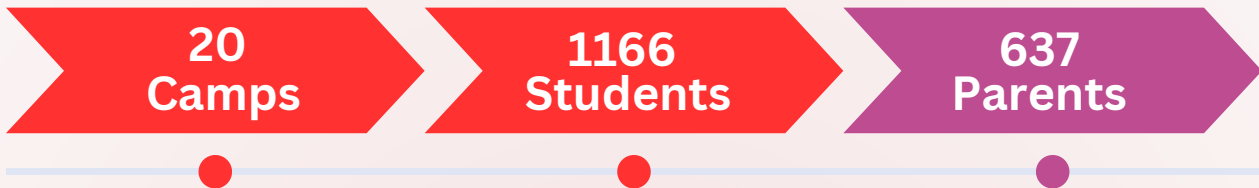
Key Areas

The National Development Foundation (NDF) works across ten targeted schools in Jammu and Samba. NDF's focus is on providing children with a strong foundation during their formative years, ensuring their holistic development in a child-friendly environment.



School Readiness Camps

The camps aimed to support children's smooth transition from early childhood education to formal schooling by enhancing foundational skills, emotional development, and parent-teacher collaboration. They also aimed to build school readiness through engaging, child-friendly, and inclusive learning practices.



The initiative significantly improved school preparedness among children increased the active involvement of parents and teachers in early education and strengthened community ownership.



Parent-Teacher Meetings

These meetings enhanced parent-teacher communication, improved parental involvement in students' education, introduced low-cost learning methods at home, and built stronger school-family partnerships, leading to a more supportive learning environment for children.

**20
Meetings**

**313
Parents**

**105
Teachers**



Equitable and Inclusive Education with a Focus on Early Identification of Disabilities

The interaction with education leaders and managers helped them understand how to identify early signs of disability in young children. It promoted better teamwork between schools, doctors, and NGOs. Attendees gained valuable knowledge on creating more inclusive classrooms and learned about ongoing government initiatives. It also highlighted the importance of improved facilities and regular teacher training to ensure no child is left behind.



It encourages equal learning opportunities for all children, especially those with developmental delays or disabilities, by training teachers and stakeholders in early identification and support strategies.



106
Officials
Sensitized

ECCE Leadership with Education Functionaries

These programmes provided education leaders with practical tools and ideas to enhance early learning in their schools. They helped them better understand ECCE goals and how to plan, monitor, and support quality education for young children. The session promoted teamwork, long-term planning, and highlighted the importance of strong leadership in making early education more effective and impactful inclusive.

It build the leadership skills of education officials and improve the quality of Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) in schools



100
Officials
Capacitated

Teacher Capacitated on Early Warning System

The teacher's training emphasises how to spot warning signs—such as low attendance, poor performance, or emotional distress—and respond quickly. The training encouraged teamwork between teachers, counsellors, and parents to support at-risk students. This helped build a strong, school-based system to prevent dropouts and ensure more students stay in school and succeed.

To train teachers in identifying students at risk of dropping out and provide them with strategies for early and effective intervention to prevent dropouts.



Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) Material

Brochure on Early Identification of Disabilities in 10 target schools of Jammu and Samba – It shared a piloting initiative by NDF and aims to empower children with special needs (CWSN) through early identification, intervention, and inclusive education practices



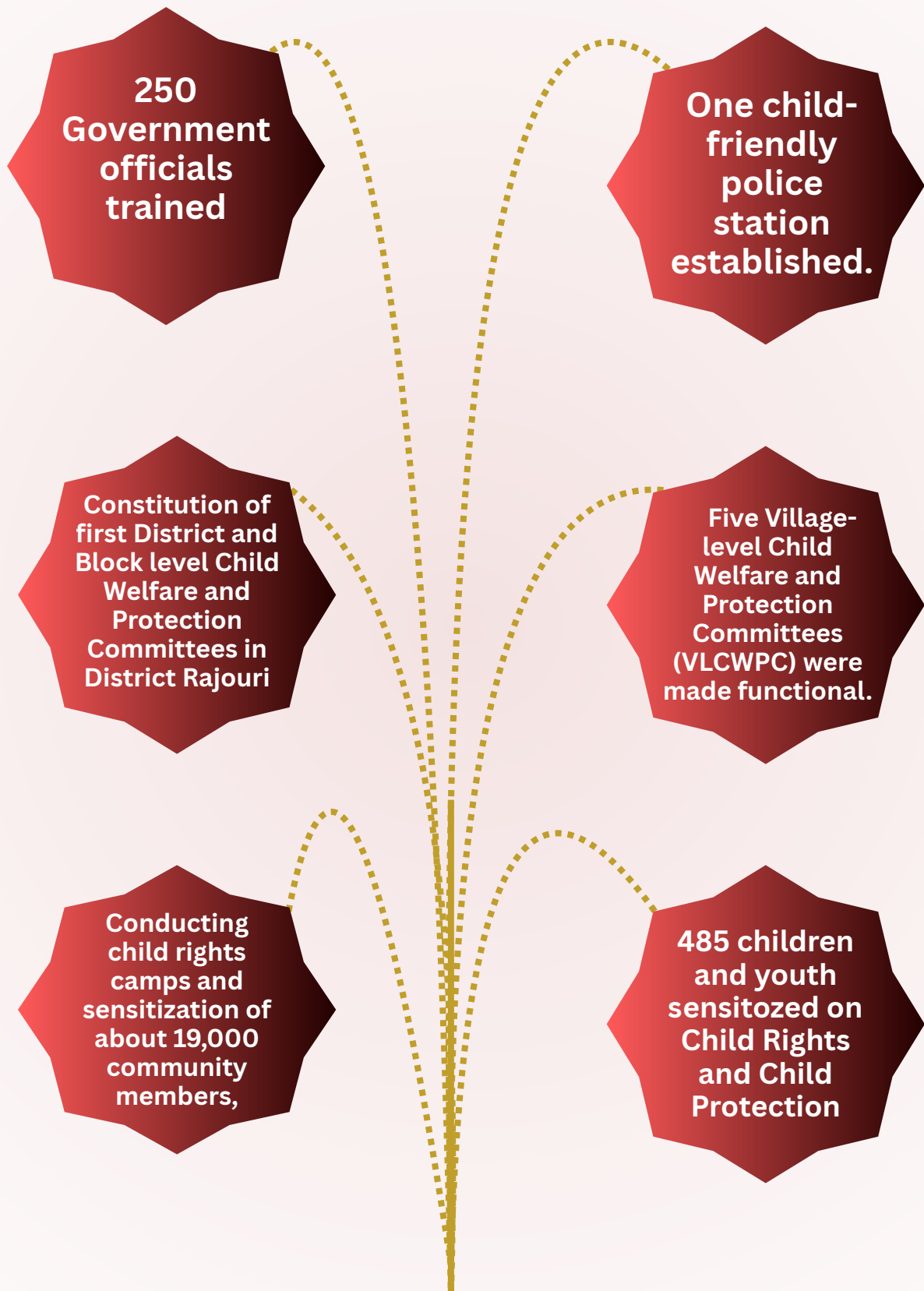
Child Protection

Significant progress was made in strengthening child protection mechanisms. Key achievements include the formation and reactivation of Child Welfare and Protection Committees (CWPCs), training of diverse stakeholders on child welfare, establishing a Child-Friendly Police Station, and conducting child rights camps that sensitised approximately 19,000 community members. The project also secured a central government commitment to support children facing adversity and highlighted critical knowledge gaps regarding alternative care mechanisms, as well as the need for sustainability through ongoing efforts.

Capacity building and active community engagement have become vital in empowering stakeholders to recognise and tackle child protection concerns. Bridging knowledge gaps about alternative care ensures children get proper support, while child-friendly spaces are crucial in establishing safe environments. Sustainability depends on consistent effort, resources, and long-term involvement. Finally, adaptability, innovation, and community-driven solutions are essential for addressing changing child protection challenges effectively.



Key Acheivements



Formation of Child Friendly Police Station at Rajouri

The Child-Friendly Police Station in Rajouri, was established by the National Development Foundation (NDF) in collaboration with J&K Police and supported by UNICEF.



This initiative offers a safe and supportive environment for children to report abuse or seek assistance. With child-friendly facilities and trained officers, it carefully addresses children's needs. By fostering trust between police and the community, it enhances child protection and promotes a rights-based approach to law enforcement.

Community Mobilisation on Child Rights and Child Protection

Community mobilisation awareness camps focusing on child rights and strengthening the three-tier child protection mechanism in targeted villages were held. Around 100 women, youth, and children from each village participated in the camps, which aimed to educate the community on child rights, emphasising the importance of protection mechanisms and the prevention of abuse, harm, and exploitation.



Such initiatives support early intervention measures and foster child-friendly awareness to protect children's well-being.

Involving Children, Adolescents & Youth in College/Schools to promote Child Protection

Involving children, adolescents, and youth, NDF organised symposiums at various colleges and schools in Jammu and Rajouri districts focused on child rights, aimed at raising awareness and fostering dialogue among different stakeholders. Each symposium brought together educators, local leaders, parents, and child rights advocates to discuss critical issues affecting children in the community.



The Symposiums also highlighted the role of legislation and local policies in safeguarding children's welfare. By empowering attendees with knowledge and tools, NDF aims to cultivate a community-wide commitment to uphold and advocate for the rights of children, ensuring that their voices are amplified and their needs are met. The culmination of these events not only fosters a deeper understanding of child rights but also strengthens collaborative efforts to create a more protective environment for children in the region.



Strengthening the Child Protection Mechanism at Block and Village-Level Through Block and Village Level Child Welfare & Protection Committees

The orientation of Block and village-level Child welfare and protection committees lays a strong foundation for child protection and serves as an important link with district-level Child welfare and protection committees. On the Pilot Bases, NDF has demonstrated this in five border villages of Nowshera: **Ganya, Chowki Handan, Bhajnowa, Bhawani and Hanjana Thakra and the border block Nowshera**. The programme saw active involvement from members of both the Block and Village Level Child Welfare and Protection Committees. These committees play a crucial role in safeguarding children's rights and ensuring their well-being within the community.

The primary objective of these trainings was to build the capacity of the committee, equipping comprehensive, practical effective Juvenile skills members them knowledge necessary for Implementation of the Justice, Care by with and the Protection of Children Act. Committees were sensitised to the key provisions of the Act, their roles and responsibilities under the protection system, the child and the importance of timely intervention and coordination with other stakeholders such as the police, Child Welfare & Protection Committees.



Research Project i.e. Preparation of PRI-based geo-referenced biodiversity assessment, documentation and conservation plan of wild flora and fauna of Kishtwar High Altitude National Park (KHANP)

National Development Foundation continued working on a prestigious project, namely preparing a PRI-based georeferenced biodiversity assessment, documentation, and conservation plan for the wild flora and fauna of Kishtwar High Altitude National Park (KHANP). The project is in partnership with the consortium partners:

The project's primary objective is to document and assess the park's biodiversity, contributing to our understanding of the unique ecosystems thriving in high-altitude regions. NDF has submitted reports to the Department of Wildlife Protection, which are appreciated on record by the Hon'ble LG of J&K, among other senior officers

The NDF research team is focusing on the following aspects of the Kishtwar High Altitude National Park, as outlined below.

- **Bird Diversity Assessment:** The project focuses on identifying and documenting the avian species present within the national park. Bird surveys, including point counts, transects, and mist netting, are being conducted to record species diversity, population sizes and migratory patterns. The collected data will contribute to understanding the park's role in avian conservation and migration.
- **Mammal Species Inventory:** The research project aims to establish a comprehensive inventory of mammalian species inhabiting the Kishtwar High Altitude National Park. Field surveys, camera trapping, and DNA analysis techniques are being employed to identify and document mammal species, their population densities and habitat preferences.

- **Flora Composition and Distribution:** The study involves comprehensive vegetation surveys across different habitats within the park. Botanical techniques such as transect sampling, quadrat analysis and species identification are being utilised to determine the diversity, distribution and abundance of plant species. The collected data will aid in understanding the park's ecological processes, plant community dynamics and potential threats to vegetation.
- **Insect Biodiversity Assessment:** The project includes an assessment of insect biodiversity within the park. Various sampling techniques, such as sweep netting, pitfall traps, and light trapping, are employed to capture and identify insect species. This research will contribute to knowledge of insect communities, their ecological roles and potential indicators of environmental change.
- **Conservation implications of Kishtwar Project:** Presently, the field research team based at the research station at Loharna in the Dacchan area of Kishtwar is collecting all the research data. This collected data will undergo rigorous analysis to determine species richness, abundance, and diversity indices. Statistical models and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) will be utilised to understand the spatial distribution patterns of the studied taxa. The research findings will provide valuable insights into the ecological health of the Kishtwar High Altitude National Park and will aid in formulating conservation strategies to safeguard its biodiversity. The final DPR of the project will have all the information about various ecological aspects of the park and will have specific recommendations for the conservation and management of the park.
- **Education, Awareness and Capacity Building:** Simultaneously, along with research in the park, in order to build capacity for the future, the field researchers regularly visit the local educational institutions and conduct various education and awareness programmes related to the wildlife of Kishtwar High Altitude National Park. In order to build the capacity of the frontline staff of the National Park, the local staff actively participates in various research activities being conducted in the area. This will ensure the future sustainability of the ongoing research activities at Kishtwar High Altitude National Park.

Snow Leopard Conservation Programme

Snow Leopard *Panthera uncia*, the smallest member of the genus *Panthera*, is the most elusive cat inhabiting cold and rugged mountain landscapes of the Great and Trans Himalayas in the western Himalayas. Its secretive behaviour, camouflage, and adaption to extreme environmental conditions make it one of the most charismatic species in the world. The snow leopard is found across the high mountains of twelve countries in South and Central Asia, and India has the third largest share of the snow leopard distribution range. In India, the snow leopard is found in the Union territories of Ladakh and Jammu & Kashmir, the states of Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh in the Western Himalayas and the states of Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim in the Eastern Himalayas. However, currently, the species is facing various threats, such as habitat loss, poaching and human-wildlife conflict.

Through our snow leopard research and conservation programme, the National Development Foundation (NDF) is dedicated to safeguarding the snow leopard population and preserving their unique habitat in the Himalayan landscape.

At NDF, we have embarked on a comprehensive research and conservation initiative with support from the Department of Wildlife Protection and the Government of J&K. This programme has a special focus on protecting the snow leopard and its fragile habitats. Currently, our programme is focusing on the following key areas:

- **Research:**

As part of our research activities for snow leopards, we conduct extensive field research to understand the behaviour, ecology and population dynamics of snow leopards at Kishtwar High Altitude National Park. Through camera trapping, satellite tracking, and genetic analysis, we gather crucial data to inform our conservation strategies.

- **Community Engagement:**

We recognise the importance of involving local communities in conservation efforts. Therefore, NDF community experts work closely with villagers, herders and other stakeholders to raise awareness about the importance of snow leopards and mitigate human-wildlife conflicts through innovative solutions.

- **Habitat Protection:**

Preserving the snow leopard's habitat is essential for their long-term survival. We collaborate with government agencies and local authorities to implement land-use planning measures and promote sustainable land management practices.

- **Capacity Building:**

We train local researchers, conservationists and wildlife officials to enhance their skills in snow leopard monitoring, research techniques and community outreach. By empowering local stakeholders, we ensure the sustainability of our conservation efforts.

- **Advocacy and Policy:**

We advocate for stronger legal protection and policies to safeguard snow leopards and their habitat. Through partnerships with national and international organisations, we strive to influence policy decisions and secure funding for conservation initiatives.

Our impact:

Since the inception of our project, we have made significant progress in snow leopard conservation in Jammu & Kashmir. Our field team at Kishtwar High Altitude National Park is the first to provide photographic evidence about the presence of snow leopards in the area. Currently, this project is being implemented in partnership with the Department of Wildlife Protection and the Government of J&K. At the same time, by collaborating with local communities and universities, we have increased awareness about the importance of preserving this iconic species.

Join Us:

You can support NDF's snow leopard research and conservation efforts by volunteering, donating or spreading awareness about our cause. Together, we can ensure a brighter future for snow leopards and the Himalayan ecosystem they call home.

Together, let's protect the snow leopards of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh and preserve the natural heritage of this breathtaking region for generations to come.

Scientific Reports under the Kishtwar High Altitude National Park Project

During the last reporting year, our organisation successfully completed and submitted 20 comprehensive scientific reports under the Kishtwar High Altitude National Park (KHANP) Research Project to the Department of Wildlife Protection, Government of Jammu & Kashmir. These reports collectively represent one of the most extensive and systematic scientific assessments ever undertaken in KHANP, covering species, habitats, ecological processes, and conservation challenges.

Each report was subjected to rigorous scrutiny by the Technical Review Committee of the Department of Wildlife Protection. The Committee's detailed comments, observations, and recommendations were duly incorporated into the revised versions of all reports, which were subsequently resubmitted to the Department, thereby ensuring that the outputs are of the highest scientific and management relevance.

The finalized reports cover the following 20 thematic components of KHANP:

- Survey and documentation (occurrence, occupancy, and density) of Hangul, Snow Leopard, Brown Bear, Black Bear, Musk Deer, Himalayan Tahr, and other large mammals.
- Survey and documentation (occurrence, occupancy, and density) of pheasants, vultures, and other avifauna, with emphasis on their ecological significance.
- Study and documentation of the Hangul corridor connecting Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh.
- Assessment and mitigation strategies for human–wild animal conflict in and around KHANP.
- Evaluation of the impact of livestock grazing on the KHANP landscape and its wildlife.
- GIS-based land use and ecosystem resource mapping.
- Survey and documentation of butterflies and other insect populations.
- Survey and documentation of flora, grazing resources, and medicinal plants, along with their ecological importance.
- Survey and documentation of aquatic flora and fauna and assessment of their ecological significance.
- Study of the sociology of nomadism and its impact on rangelands and the KHANP landscape.
- Pest and disease monitoring in the wildlife of KHANP.
- Study and documentation of ecosystem services provided by KHANP.
- Study and documentation of climate change impacts on KHANP ecology, along with adaptation and mitigation planning.
- Survey and documentation of biodiversity micro-hotspots and preparation of species-specific conservation and revival plans.

- Assessment and recommendation of infrastructure requirements for frontline staff, including guard huts, check posts, and offices.
- Assessment and recommendation of technological interventions for biodiversity conservation and management, and capacity building of frontline staff.
- Assessment and recommendation for promotion of environmental awareness in and around KHANP.
- Assessment, evaluation, and integration of ongoing conservation and management interventions.
- Study and documentation of discharge patterns of important streams/nallahs and watersheds within KHANP.
- Survey and documentation of aquatic biodiversity and evaluation of ecosystem health indicators in KHANP.

The breadth and depth of these reports provide a comprehensive scientific baseline for guiding the long-term conservation, management, and sustainable use of the unique ecosystems and biodiversity of KHANP. Together, they also highlight the ecological, social, and climatic dimensions of conservation in one of the most critical high-altitude landscapes of the Western Himalayas.

Importantly, the outputs of this research project now form part of a Detailed Project Report (DPR) for Kishtwar High Altitude National Park. This DPR will serve as a blueprint for the Department of Wildlife Protection in designing and implementing future conservation actions in KHANP. It will help the department in prioritizing interventions, addressing site-specific challenges, strengthening protection measures, enhancing community engagement, and planning climate-resilient strategies for long-term ecological security of the park.

With the submission and acceptance of these 20 reports and the DPR, the prestigious Kishtwar High Altitude National Park Research Project stands successfully completed, laying a strong scientific and management foundation for the park's future.

Black-Necked Crane Book Released

Black-necked Crane, by Sh. Pankaj Chandan, Sr. Conservation Scientist/Director National Development Foundation and co-authored by Dr. Asad Rafi Rahmani, Sr. Nature Scientist and Pr. Scientist Advisor NDF released by Sh. Suresh Gupta, Pr. Secretary, Culture & Tribal Affairs J&K Government, Ms. Rashmi Singh, IAS and Sh. Rajiv Khajuria, President NDF.



Press Releases

Suresh Gupta pitches for inclusion, bridging gaps for access and participation of learners



JAMMU BULLETIN NEWS
JAMMU, DEC 26:

Suresh Kumar Gupta, Principal Secretary to the J&K Government School Education Department, called upon the School Education Functionaries, particularly the Mid-level Managers and HOIs, to ensure Inclusive and Equitable Education for all children in Jammu & Kashmir. He was speaking in a consultation workshop on Equitable and Inclusive Education with a focus on the Early Identification of Disabilities organized by the National Development Foundation Jammu in collaboration with the Directorate of Samagra Shiksha J&K,

Directorate of School Education Jammu and UNICEF India. Around 100 HOIs from Jammu & Samba districts participated in the workshop.

Director School Education Jammu Ashok Kumar Sharma, Director Poshan J&K Kishori Lal Sharma, Joint Director SCERT Prof. Sindhu Kapoor, Dr. Bilal Rashid Deputy Director Planning Samagra Shiksha J&K and Danish Aziz, Education Specialist UNICEF India also addressed the participants and reiterated the commitment of School Education Department for the Inclusive and Equitable Education. Rajiv Khajuria,

President of the National Development Foundation, presented a keynote address and briefed the participants that NEP advocates the Rights of Children with Special Needs at par with the Rights of Persons with Disability Act 2016. The Resource Persons of the workshop were Raj Kumar Chadha (Coordinator Inclusive Samagra), Harkesha Kar (Early Intervention Expert GMC Jammu), Neha Kalra (Special Educator), Dr. Nikhil Jamwal (MO RBSK, CMO Off. Jammu) and Vidushi Sharma (State Programme Coordinator CIIT J&K). Sunny Kumar, Programme Manager NDF, welcomed the participants while Nisha Pandita acted as stage secretary.

IEC material on inclusive education was also released. Suresh Kumar Gupta further added that National Education Policy 2020 has infused all aspects of Disability Inclusion throughout the policy with a special chapter on inclusive and equitable education focusing on the issues, challenges and recommendations to bridge the gaps to reduce disparity and to ensure access and participation of the learners.

ECCE right of every child: Director School Education



JAMMU BULLETIN NEWS
JAMMU, DEC 27:

Ashok Sharma, Director School Education Jammu, while addressing a workshop at Jammu, said that Early Childhood Care & Education is the Right of every child in Jammu & Kashmir, and the J&K Government is committed to strengthening this component in the School Education system. He was the Chief Guest at the Workshop organized by the National Development Foundation Jammu in collaboration with the Directorate of Samagra Shiksha J&K, Directorate of School Education Jammu and UNICEF India. Around 100 HOIs participated in the workshop. The workshop aimed at inculcating leadership among Education Officers and HOIs in the field of Early Childhood Care & Education.

Ms. Subha Mehta, Joint

Director School Education, Dr. Bilal Rashid Mir, Deputy Director Planning, Sh. M. Rameez Khan CAO, Sh. Kishore Sharma, Coordinator Quality from Samagra Shiksha J&K, sensitized the participants to the initiatives of School Education and the role of HOIs on ECCE. Rajiv Khajuria, President National Development Foundation, said that Early Childhood Care & Education is the Right of all children, and NDF is committed to facilitating this. He highlighted the ECCE component as envisioned in National Education Policy 2020.

The Resource Persons of the workshop were Jaswinder Kour, Coordinator Pre-Primary SRML HSS Parade, Monika Dogra from SCERT, and Sarita Sharma Asst. Coordinator Pre-Primary SRML HSS Parade. Sunny

Kumar, Programme Manager NDF gave a welcome address while Nisha Pandita, Addl. Programme Officer NDF acted as stage secretary. Ashok Sharma, in his detailed address, stressed the main features of ECCE and called upon the HOIs to work on developing good habits in children, developing social behaviour, developing basic life skills and imparting Age and Development appropriate education. He said that the School Education Department has started many kindergartens in the Jammu division to cater to the needs of pre-primary classes. He appreciated the efforts of the National Development Foundation Jammu for extending technical support to the School Education Department as a civil society partner and assured full support and cooperation to the foundation.

Suresh Gupta pitches for inclusion, bridging gaps for access and participation of learners

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Suresh Kumar Gupta, Principal Secretary to the J&K Government School Education Department, called upon the School Education Functionaries, particularly the Mid-level Managers and HOIs, to ensure Inclusive and Equitable Education for all children in Jammu & Kashmir.

He was speaking in a consultation workshop on Equitable and Inclusive Education with a focus on the Early Identification of Disabilities organized by the National Development Foundation Jammu in collaboration with the Directorate of Samagra Shiksha J&K, Directorate of School Education Jammu and UNICEF India.

Around 100 HOIs from Jammu & Samba districts participated in the workshop. Director School Education Jammu Ashok Kumar Sharma, Director Poshan J&K Kishori Lal Sharma, Joint Director SCERT Prof. Sindhu Kapoor, Dr. Bilal Rashid Deputy Director Planning Samagra Shiksha J&K and Danish Aziz, Education Specialist UNICEF India also



Prin Secy School Education Department Suresh Kumar Gupta and other dignitaries releasing brochure at Jammu on Thursday.

addressed the participants and reiterated the commitment of School Education Department for the Inclusive and Equitable Education.

Rajiv Khajuria, President of the National Development Foundation, presented a keynote address and briefed the participants that NEP advocates the Rights of Children with Special Needs at par with the Rights of Persons with Disability Act 2016. The Resource Persons of the workshop were Raj Kumar Chadha (Coordinator Inclusive Samagra), Harkesha Kar (Early Intervention Expert GMC Jammu), Neha Kalra (Special Educator), Dr.

Nikhil Jamwal (MO RBSK, CMO Off. Jammu) and Vidushi Sharma (State Programme Coordinator CIIT J&K).

Sunny Kumar, Programme Manager NDF, welcomed the participants while Nisha Pandita acted as stage secretary. IEC material on inclusive education was also released. Suresh Kumar Gupta further added that National Education Policy 2020 has infused all aspects of Disability Inclusion throughout the policy with a special chapter on inclusive and equitable education focusing on the issues, challenges and recommendations to bridge the

gaps to reduce disparity and to ensure access and participation of the learners.

He added that the policy had covered the issues and challenges of the underserved children, including Children with Disability, which are covered under socio-educationally backward groups, which refer to gender identities, socio-cultural identities, socio-economic identities, geographic identities and disabilities. Gupta called upon all the functionaries of the School Education Department to ensure Inclusive and Equitable Education in the best interest of the children in Jammu & Kashmir.

Teachers Training on EWS held

TNN BUREAU

JAMMU: A training of the teachers of the Govt. Schools of Jammu & Samba was held at Tawi Conference Hall in Udhewala, here on Saturday. The training was organised by National Development Foundation in collaboration with the Directorate of Samagra Shiksha J&K, the Directorate of School Education Jammu, and UNICEF India. Sunny Kumar, Programme Manager NDF and Nisha Pandita, Addl. Programme Officer NDF sensitised the teachers on the Early Warning System, which is a mechanism for understanding the students who are at risk of dropping out. Around 50 participants participated in the event.



Rajiv Kumar Khajuria, President National Development Foundation and Member Selection Committee under Juvenile Justice Rules, interacted with the teachers and called upon them to involve School Management Committees, Parents and students to ensure no student drop out.

He appealed to the teachers to implement the low-cost and no-cost strategies

explained to them in this day's training to understand the early signs of the students who are at risk of dropping out and strategies on how to prevent them from dropping out. He said that the New Education Policy focuses on the universalisation of education for all children by improving the quality of education and ensuring an Inclusive & Equitable Education System.

FORM No. 10BB
[See rule 16CC and 17B]

Audit report under clause (b) of the tenth proviso to clause (23C) of section 10 and sub-clause (ii) of clause (b) of sub-section (1) of section 12A of the Income-tax Act, 1961, in the case of a fund or trust or institution or any university or other educational institution or any hospital or other medical institution which is required to be furnished under clause (b) of the tenth proviso to clause (23C) of section 10 or a trust or institution which is required to be furnished under sub-clause (ii) of clause (b) of section 12A

We have examined the balance sheet of **NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION** [name of the fund or trust or institution or any university or other educational institution or any hospital or other medical institution] as at **31-MAR-2025** and the Income and Expenditure account or Profit and Loss account for the year ended on that date are in agreement with the books of account maintained by the said fund or trust or institution or university or other educational institution or hospital or other medical institution.

We have obtained all the information and explanations to the best of our knowledge and belief which are necessary for the purposes of the audit.

In our opinion, proper books of account have been maintained at the registered office of the above named fund or trust or institution or university or other educational institution or hospital or other medical institution at the address mentioned at row 11 of the Annexure:

In our opinion and to the best of our information and according to explanations given to us, the particulars given in the Annexure are true and correct subject to following observations or qualifications

In our opinion and to the best of our information, and according to information given to us, the said accounts give a true and fair view

- (i) in the case of the balance sheet, of the state of affairs of the above named Institution as on **31-MAR-2025** and
- (ii) in the case of the Income and Expenditure account or Profit and Loss account, of the income and application or profit or loss of its accounting year ending on **31-MAR-2025**

subject to the following observations/qualifications

- (1) Column 4 of TDS schedule have amounts on which tds is applicable and deducted. The total expenditure is as per income expenditure account.

The prescribed particulars are annexed hereto.

For O.P. Garg & Co.
Chartered Accountants
(Firm Regn No.: 0001194N)



(VIKRAM GARG)
Partner
Membership-No: 097038

Place : JAMMU
Date : 20-Sep-2025
UDIN : 25097038BMGXTC6859

NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION, NDF
1st Floor, Shakuntala Bhawan, Ram Janki Enclave, Udheywala, Jammu (J&K)

Balance Sheet as at 31.03.2025 (All amount are in INR)

ASSETS		For the Year Ended 31st March-2025
Fixed Assets:		1,047,971.00
Current Assets, Loan and Advances		
Cash & Bank Balances:		2,472,591.13
Loans and advances		1,005,635.00
Total Assets		4,526,197.13
LIABILITIES		
Secured loans		0.00
Unsecured Loans		970,000.00
Current Liabilities		6,198,451.50
Reserve & Surplus		2,642,254.37
Total		4,526,197.13

For O.P. Garg & Co.

Chartered Accountants

CA Vikram Garg

Partner

M. No. 097038

DATE : 20.09.2025



Hari Om

Incharge Accounts

Arti Sharma

Chief Executive Officer

NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION, NDF
1st Floor, Shakuntala Bhawan, Ram Janki Enclave, Udheywala, Jammu (J&K)
Income & Expenditure Account for the year ended on 31.03.2025 (All amount are in INR)

		For the Year Ended 31st March-2025
Income		
Restricted Income (Grant/Donations)		12,395,022.00
Unrestricted Income (Grant/Donations)		50,097.64
Other Incomes		72690.00
		12,517,809.64
Expenditure		
Programme Implementation Expenditure		12,352,112.00
Administrative and Other Expenditure		413,673.50
		12,765,785.50
Excess of Income over Expenditure		-247,975.86
Total		12,517,809.64

Receipt and Payment Account for the year ended on 31.03.2025 (All amount are in INR)

		For the Year Ended 31st March-2025
Receipts		
Opening Cash and Bank Balance		442,395.99
Grants		12,395,022.00
Donations		50,097.64
Other income		27,058.00
Other receivables		146,206.00
Total		13,060,779.63
Payments		
Programme and Administrative cost		12,538,079.50
Payables Paid		-2,109,962.00
		10,428,117.50
Fixed Assets, TDS, Advance		160,071.00
Cash and Bank Balance at the end of the year		2,472,591.13
Total		13,060,779.63

For O.P. Garg & Co.
Chartered Accountants

CA Vikram Garg
Partner
M. No. 097038
DATE : 20.09.2025




Hari Om
Incharge Accounts


Arti Sharma
Chief Executive Officer

Join hands with

National Development Foundation

To secure every child's right to Survival Development Protection and Participation and to create opportunities for the Development and Empowerment of children, youth and women.



To Donate & Support our Work



Visit www.ndf.net in



Write to us at info@ndf.org.in



+91 8491070082

Follow us on:



@ndfkindia



@ndfjk



@ndfkindia



@nationaldevelopmentfoundation