

# **ANNUAL REPORT** 2020-2021



# ABOUT **iPARTNER INDIA**

iPartner India works on six thematic areas – Anti child trafficking, Health,
Women and Livelihoods, Education, Vulnerable Children and Climate Change.
iPartner India works directly on the ground and also through partners. We have grown to support and implement high-impact and bespoke projects primarily in India. Through each of our projects, iPartner India ensures that the project's benefit reaches the most marginalized section of society without any discrimination and bias.

 We enable expert partnerships across a range of issues to build capacity for under-funded NGOs. We offer a platform for institutional donors, family foundations and companies to bring about long-term sustainable change.

We come with more than 12 years of experience and expertise of working closely on the ground directly and in partnership with local NGOs that are transforming the lives of the underprivileged by helping them on their journey from being marginalised to becoming part of the mainstream.

The key to our success has been the rigorous process we have in place to identify, monitor and evaluate our programmes. In addition to helping grassroots organisations scale up, iPartner India also offers mentoring and advisory services to help our partners innovate and become more efficient and impactful.



### FROM THE CHIEF FUNCTIONARY

I am delighted to present iPartner India's 2021 Annual Report. This is the first annual report coming out after I was appointed as the Chief Functionary of iPartner India. 2021 has undeniably been a year of immense challenges for us as we witnessed the pandemic impacting so many lives. Yet, it has also been a year of inspiration where human resilience and solidarity brought together so many people to generously come forward and help each other in the face of a crisis.

We have undergone several organisational changes in this past year and I am honoured to assume the position of the new Chief Functionary of iPartner India. We have also added five new team members and we are excited to welcome them on board to make iPartner India more vibrant with their expertise in various fields.

We also continued with our other ongoing projects where we supported girls' education, partnered with NGOs fighting child trafficking and working with vulnerable children. We have trained women to become economically self-reliant. We have also used the medium of sports to empower vulnerable girls. Additionally, we have also supported a project that helps strategise Electric Vehicle charging units.

We are adjusting to the new normal but our work must go on. Our commitment to continuing to amplify the voices of some of India's most marginalised communities that need our support remains the core vision and mission of iPartner India.

On behalf of our Board and my team, I wish you a pleasant reading of our Annual Report and we hope you will take pride in being part of our amazing journey.



# VISION

iPartner India's vision is to create a more just and equitable India – an India where poverty levels have been significantly reduced, where every person has equal opportunities regardless of gender, caste or socioeconomic background.

# MISSION

iPartner India's mission is to give voice to grassroots NGOs and inspire individuals and businesses to join efforts in creating a better India.

## OUR AREAS OF WORK

**ANTI-CHILD TRAFFICKING** 

**EDUCATION** 

**ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT** 

HEALTH

**WOMEN & LIVELIHOODS** 

**VULNERABLE CHILDREN** 

**YOUTH & SPORTS** 



## **PROJECT RAKSHAN** CREATING SAFE SPACES FOR CHILDREN

Project Rakshan, conceptualised and developed by iPartner India, is a five-year programme to provide safe spaces for children in Rajasthan.

The project is designed to create nodal points of collaboration, action and engagement between families, communities, and the legal, administrative, economic and socio-cultural environment.

While the primary focus of the project is to create a safe environment for children, it also engages with the entire community to enable that change. It aims to use a holistic approach to increase educational levels and improve the health conditions of girls and boys while also providing rural women and men with alternative livelihood opportunities. The objective of this project is to ensure that no child must ever go missing in the selected villages.

The project is currently being implemented in 27 villages of Tonk District, Rajasthan.





## PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

### **EDUCATION**

### **SKILL BUILDING**



#### **EMPLOYMENT**

10 youth trained, among them 4 are employed with their average earning ranging between INR 8,000 to INR 15,000 per month.

#### **SKILL BUILDING**

291 youth and children completed the Rajasthan State Certificate course in Information Technology (RS-CIT) and the basic computer course.

#### **SEED BANK**

INR 1,62,787 worth of seeds provided to 118 farmers through three seed banks under the project.

#### HORTICULTURE

The horticulture demonstration units from the previous year saw an average increase of income, approximately INR 25,000 per family per crop.

#### **VEGETABLE** DEMONSTRATION

14 families increased their income by selling vegetables through vegetable demonstration units. There has been an average increase of income by approximately INR 28,000 per family for one crop.

#### **KITCHEN GARDEN**

540 families benefitted through kitchen gardens and saved up to INR 1,500 per month.

### **POULTRY FARMING**

8 youth earned a livelihood through poultry farming. Their earnings ranged from INR 5,700 to INR 70,000 per annum.

#### **EDUCATION SUPPORT**

494 children, women and youth received education support in the form of open schooling and tuition classes in Math, Science and English.

#### **SCHOLARSHIP**

50 girls and boys received a scholarship to continue with their education. 31 children and youth were supported to pursue higher education.

### I IVFI IHOOD

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#### **APNO RAKSHAN KENDRA**

46 women and girls earned their livelihood by stitching masks, laundry bags, cloth bags and clothes. The average income of women was between INR 5,000 to INR 15,000 per annum.

#### **TRAINING ON RURAL SALES & ENTREPRENEURSHIP**

51 participants have undertaken the training. Sessions on market assessment, village scoping study and business opportunities among others were held.

### **GOVERNANCE**

### HEALTH







#### **GRAM PANCHAYAT**

5 Gram Panchavats strengthened as child friendly Gram Panchayats.

#### **SCHOOL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEES (SMCs)**

Engagement with 26 SMCs continued throughout the year with 128 women and 145 men.



#### VILLAGE LEVEL CHILD **PROTECTION COMMITTEES** (VLCPCs)

17 VLCPCs have been engaged with across 27 villages with 379 women and 242 men. Two **Block Level Child Protection** Committees also formed.

### **SELF HELP GROUPS (SHGs)** 30 SHGs have been formed with 318 women. **YOUTH GROUPS** Regular engagement with 31 youth groups with 487 members. **BAL PANCHAYATS** Regular engagement with 27 Bal Panchayats with 279 boys and 327 girls. **SAFETY AUDIT** 604 children, members of SMC, Gram Panchayat **TEAM MEETINGS** and VLCPC participated in 13 meetings have been 15 safety audits. conducted with the Rakshan team.

#### **HEALTH CAMPS**

9 health camps were organised. 790 women and girls attended these camps.

### **COVID-19**

COVID-19 action team has been formed and they have connected 250 community members with different social benefit schemes.

#### **TEACHERS MEETINGS**

90 teachers from 27 villages had regular meetings to discuss the academic status of children.

### I FADFRSHIP

#### **VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT**

The data collection process is completed. The survey will help us to assess and monitor the vulnerability of girls from the villages on the basis of several indicators. This will ensure timely interventions for at-risk girls in the highly vulnerable category.

**SAFE SPACES FOR CHILDREN** 

6 playgrounds have been created for children to play in a safe space.

## **COVID-19 EMERGENCY FOOD FUND CAMPAIGN** & CYCLONE AMPHAN RELIEF

#### **COVID-19 EMERGENCY FOOD FUND**

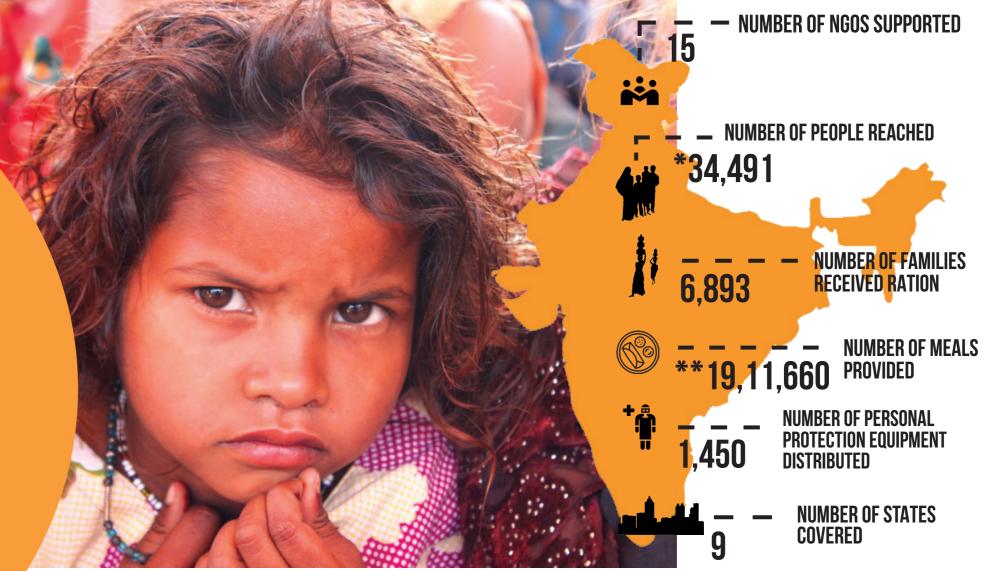
The response to our Emergency Food Fund appeal was overwhelming. Through the generous support of over 150 individuals and Foundations, we managed to raise a phenomenal INR 69,25,435.

The donation was used to reach out to 30,526 people, providing them with food rations as well as health and hygiene kits. The dry rations provided were more than sufficient for two meals a day over a 30-day period. A total of 18,21,660 meals were provided. Masks and gloves as well as sanitary napkins and soap were provided in some cities where the volunteers were able to procure and distribute them. In addition, we were able to provide Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) to frontline workers in South India.

#### CYCLONE AMPHAN RELIEF

While the battle against the COVID was raging, cyclone Amphan brought double disaster for people in West Bengal and Odisha. Cyclone Amphan was intense and did a lot of damage to lives and properties. More than 50 people lost their lives in Bengal and normal life was paralysed for millions in Kolkata and the rural areas with power cuts and unavailability of water for more than 78 hours.

iPartner India supported three organisations in West Bengal for relief work and raised INR 9,00,000 to provide relief to 3,965 individuals affected by the cyclone. The families were provided with dry ration kits, tarpaulin sheets, chlorine tablets. Further support was extended for the cleaning of the ponds in the community.



\*Total number of people reached through COVID Emergency Food Fund and Amphan Cyclone Relief campaign. \*\* Total number of meals provided during COVID Emergency Food Fund and Amphan Cyclone Relief campaign.

## ANTI-CHILD TRAFFICKING

iPartner India works with grassroots organisations in India that are combating child trafficking and provide direct services to children and youth who have been trafficked, exploited and abused. At the same time, we engage with local communities by empowering local leaders to create change at local, regional, and national levels.

In the past year, iPartner India collaborated with four organisations to support education and community awareness programmes and provide safe shelter, nutrition, access to healthcare facilities and alternative livelihood training for survivors of trafficking in four states of India. India continued to retain its position in the Tier 2 category as per the Trafficking in Persons Report June 2021<sup>1</sup>. Tier 2 are those countries that do not fully meet the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking but are making significant efforts in identifying more victims and investigating and prosecuting more trafficking cases. According to the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB)<sup>2</sup>, there were about 2,200 cases of trafficking in 2019, of which 95 per cent accounted for internal trafficking. In the official figures, 6,616 victims were reported to have been trafficked, including 2,914 children. Despite the Covid-19 restrictions that were in place, cases of child trafficking continue to rise unabated.

Through iPartner India's support, over 8,000 people have been reached including survivors of trafficking, at-risk girls and vulnerable communities.

<sup>1</sup> www.state.gov/reports/2021-trafficking-in-persons-report; <sup>2</sup> ncrb.gov.in/en





iPartner India supports the education of girls who are unable to go to school due to extreme poverty, cultural norms and practices, poor infrastructure and other barriers that prevent them from getting educated.

In the past year, iPartner India partnered with six organisations in four states that support girls' education. In addition to enrolling girls to schools, iPartner India also focuses on providing life skill training and counselling. Regular career guidance sessions are held to help the girls to become self-reliant.

Despite growing awareness on how important girls' education is to development and removal of gender barriers, disparities amongst girls' education in India continue to persist. Girls are at greater risk of being deprived of their education as they are pushed towards child labour and child marriage in times of crisis. Nearly 40%<sup>1</sup> of adolescent girls in the age group of 15-18 years are not attending school while 30% of girls from poorest families have never set foot in a classroom, according to a status report by the Right to Education Forum. The COVID-19 pandemic has created a situation where 10 million girls are at risk of dropping out of secondary school due to schools remaining shut.

iPartner India strongly believes that the education of a girl goes beyond just enrolling her into school. Every child deserves equal opportunities to complete their education in a safe and healthy environment.

Through iPartner India's support, more than 700 girls are now receiving educational support.

## VULNERABLE CHILDREN

iPartner India is dedicated to improving the lives of vulnerable children by partnering with organisations that are equally committed to rehabilitating children from the streets to a home where they are protected and valued.

In the past year, iPartner India supported one organisation to provide vulnerable children with education, nutrition and life skill training.

Our work ensures that children are provided with a secure childhood through various art activities that are therapeutic and have a lasting impact on their lives. The COVID-19 pandemic has worsened the plight of some of India's most vulnerable children. More than 200,000 children are working or living on the street, according to the "Save the Children 2019 Spotlight on Invisibles"<sup>1</sup> survey. Nearly 60 percent of these children are between the ages of 6 and 14.

Our work focuses on the importance of the rights of children to grow up in a safe environment, protected from violence, abuse and exploitation.

Through iPartner India's support, 27 children received safe shelter, education, nutrition and counselling.





iPartner India advocates for sustainable livelihood options for resource-poor women so that their income levels and productivity are increased. Women's participation in the workforce not only empowers the women but the community at large too.

In the past year, iPartner India supported three organisations that train women to get livelihoods and become economically self-reliant. Women were trained to become professional chauffeurs and some women were trained in tailoring, block printing and mechanical jobs.

In India, participation of women in the labour market is extremely low with the total workforce participation rate of women being 25.5% (Census 2011<sup>1</sup>) - in some parts of rural India this number is as low as 10%. As per the Census of 2011, there has been no recorded increase in the workforce participation rate of women in the last decade.

Through iPartner India's support, more than 800 women have been trained in various alternate livelihood options.

## WOMEN & **LIVELIHOOD**



iPartner India is empowering girls in Kolkata by training adolescent girls to play football. Oftentimes, community and institutional resources are either limited or are not accessible for girls. Sports give them access to public spaces, especially in societies where mobility is restricted. With regular football practice and gender training, the girls are learning their rights, acquiring decision-making skills and a sense of identity beyond the domestic realm.

Through this project, iPartner India aims to address gender-based violence by building the leadership capacity of young adolescent girls and women and creating awareness on gender rights and equality, and Sexual and Reproductive Rights. The women and girls in the targeted community are victims of gender-based violence. In the past year, 1,052 women, girls and other community members have been reached through this project. The beneficiaries include 40 girls who have been trained under a professional football coach. Last year has been a real challenge for the girls due to the lockdown as they were unable to step out of their homes to practice football.

Despite all this, we are proud to see the girls asserting their rights to a space to pursue their passion and challenge societal norms where sports is only seen to be associated with boys.

iPartner India is determined to empower more girls in the coming year through training and by encouraging them to claim their space in the field of sports.



Image source: www.mahindrafirstchoice.com

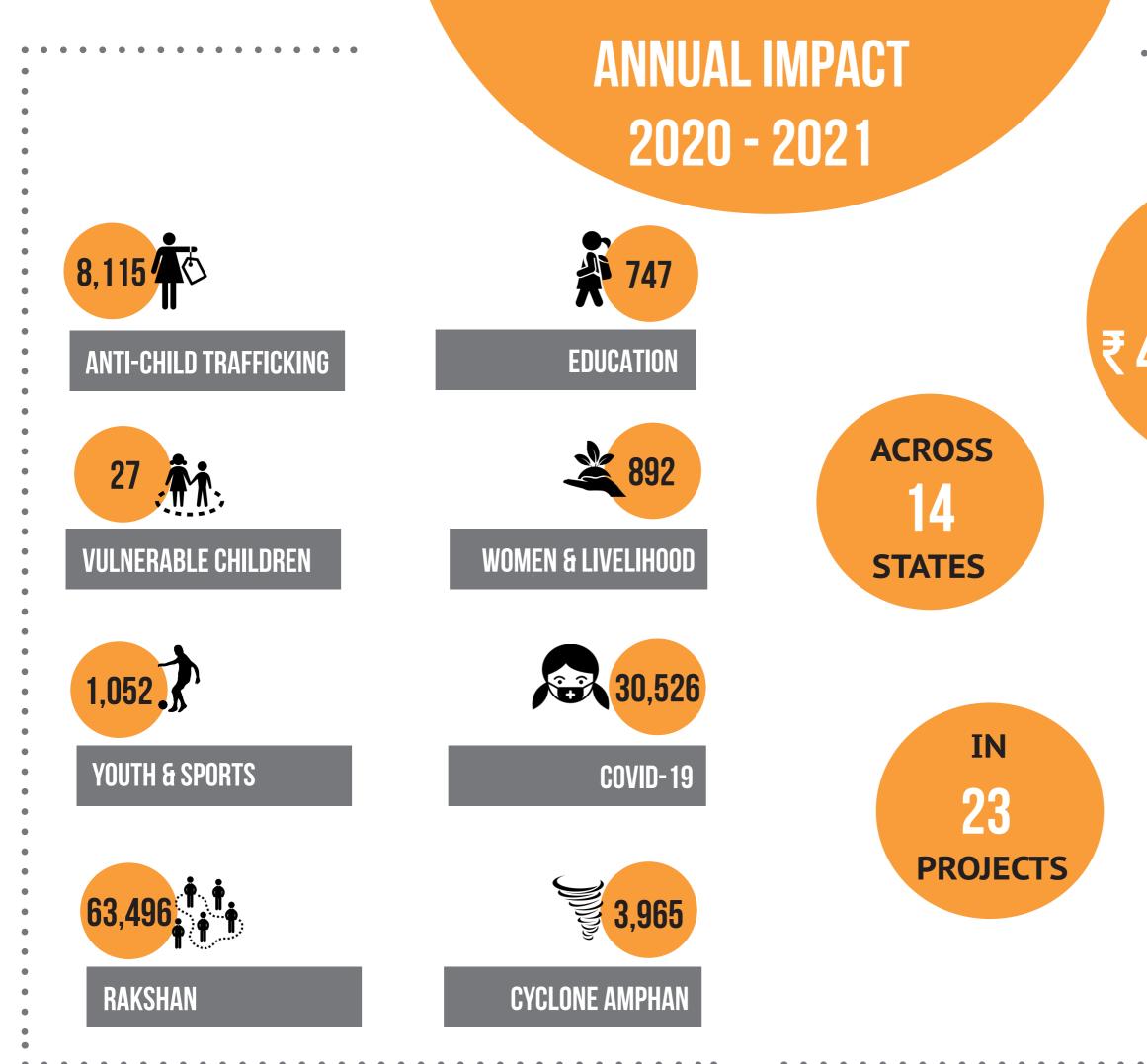
In the past year, iPartner India, in partnership with Shakti Sustainable Energy Foundation, developed a road map for the distribution of licenses for Electric Vehicle Charging Stations (EVCS) in Uttar Pradesh.

Just like in other projects, the EV charging station business involves various stakeholders and therefore, we developed a business model that caters to the requirements of all stakeholders.

This model is available to stakeholders who see a commercial viability in undertaking the project. A detailed report has been prepared for Uttar Pradesh Power Distribution Companies (DISCOMS), a major stakeholder in the EVCS business.

The project aims to help in the overall reduction of Greenhouse Gas Emissions by promoting the shifting to EVs from cars using petrol and diesel.

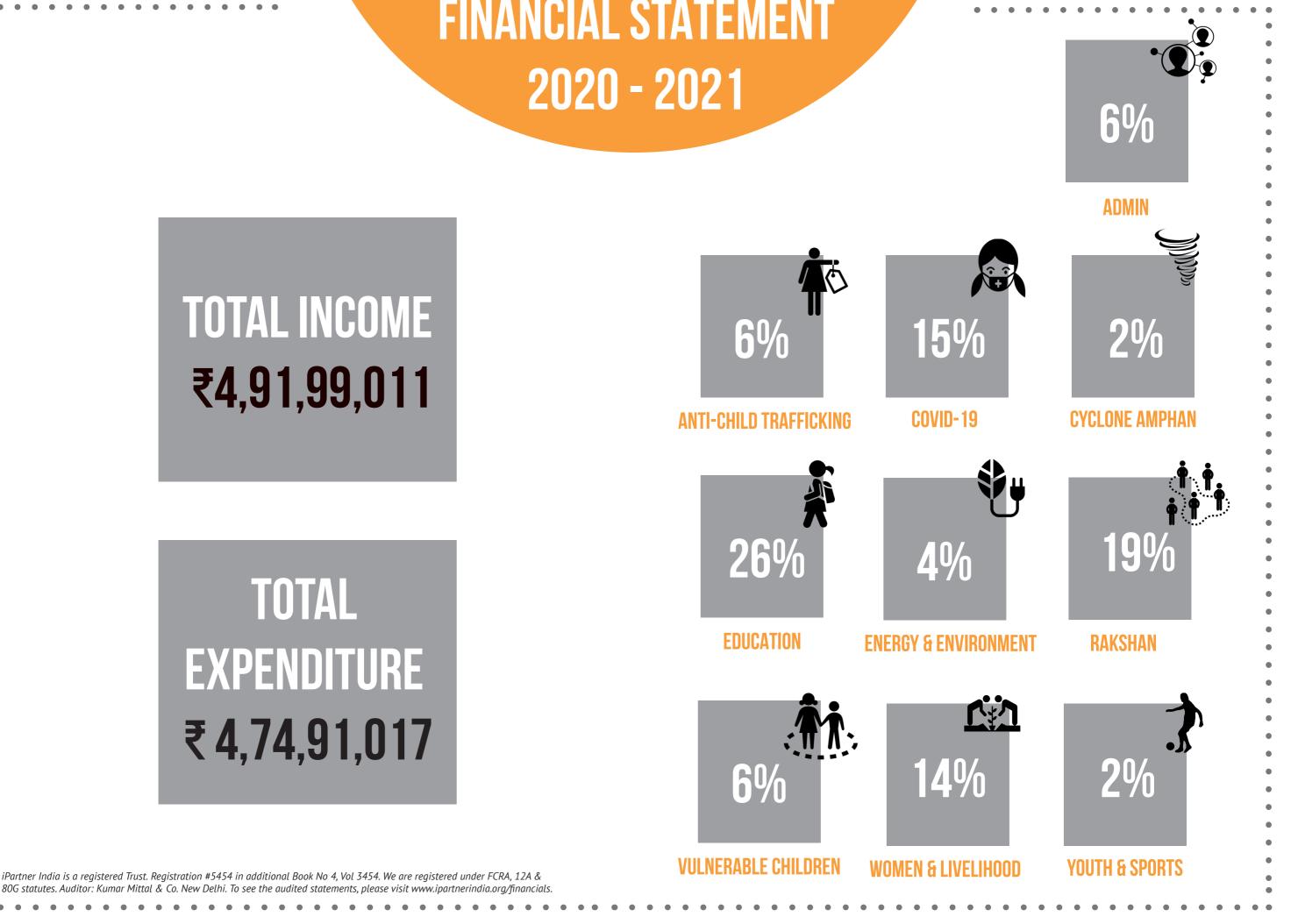
## **ENERGY** & **ENVIRONMENT**



## utilised ₹4,74,91,017

### IMPACTING 1,08,820 LIVES





## **BOARD OF** TRUSTEES



### **DR. SANJAY PATRA CHAIRPERSON**

Dr. Sanjay Patra is the Executive Director of Financial Management Service Foundation. He has been involved in the for over 25 years and his skill and financial governance in organisations in India, South Asia and beyond.



**SHOBA MATHAI** TRUSTEE



SHANKAR VENKATESWARAN TRUSTEE



### **RASHMI CHANDRA** TRUSTEE

comes with 30 years of experience advising CEOs and management to setting up and implementing corporate strategies, performance optimization, channel sales-force effectiveness in shaping and running large scale transformations and designing route to deeply motivated initiatives and people capability development.



**ESHANT RAJPUT CHIEF FUNCTIONARY** 





RAJIV ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT



**VISHNU TAILOR PROJECT ASSISTANT** 



SANDEEP JANNAWAT LIVELIHOOD EXPERT

Ms Shoba Mathai is the Director of SoftCAST Technologies Pvt. Ltd. She has of experience in the IT field. She serves on the board of other Non-Governmental Organisations and Communications.

## Mr Shankar retired as the chief of Tata Sustainability Group in 2017 after a career of

over 35 years in the corporate and development sectors. He now advises companies, NGOs and Corporate Sustainability and Social Development matters. He also serves NGOs and writes, speak



**NISHA DUBEY** SENIOR PROGRAMME MANAGER



**SHAMA PARVEEN CENTRE COORDINATOR** 



**KANAHIYA LAL SHARMA PROJECT ACCOUNTANT** 



**ADITI BAKSHI PROGRAMME MANAGER** 



**MAHJABBEN NAAZ PROJECT COORDINATOR** 

# **OUR TEAM**

### **CONTACT US**

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