

ANNUAL REPORT

2022-2023





National Foundation For India

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Table Of Content

About us	2
What We Do	3
How We Do	4
Administration.....	5
From ED's Chair.....	6
NFI In Action	7
Ankuran	8
Bandhutva	9
C Subramaniam Awards for Community Leaders	10
Kamla Bhasin Awards	11
Climate Action Program -Coal Transition Project	12
Leaving No One Behind	14
NFI Media Fellowships Programme	15
Finance	16

About Us

The National Foundation for India (NFI) is a non-profit organization established in 1992 with the aim of promoting sustainable and equitable development in India. The foundation has accomplished to work pan India with a vision of working in the segments of social, economic, and political empowerment of marginalized communities in India.

In the initial period, a group of Indian scholars, researchers, and eminent leaders such as Late Bharat Ratna C. Subramaniam, Dr. M S Swaminathan, Dr. Kamla Chowdhry, Late Shri S P Godrej, Late Dr. Verghese Kurien, and Mr. Ratan Tata, among others, who had established the vision of promoting and enabling social justice in India. Since then, the organization has focused on a range of issues, including poverty reduction, gender equality, environmental sustainability, and democratic governance.

NFI's work is guided by the principles of inclusivity, participation, and empowerment. The organization believes that sustainable development can only be achieved by involving all stakeholders, especially those who are marginalized or excluded, in the planning and implementation of development programs.

In a nutshell, we are committed to improving the lives of people in India by enabling social justice and ensuring sustainable development.

What We Do

NFI intervenes in seven thematic areas, i.e., Education, Health, Livelihood, Citizens and Society, Peace and Conflict Resolution, Governance and Development Communication, focusing on working closely with marginalized communities, women, and inaccessible regions. We are also engaged in strengthening civil society organisations (CSOs) by:

- Enabling their capacities
- Promoting grassroot leadership
- Providing a platform for dialogue

Where we work

Over three decades, NFI has supported over 300 grassroots organizations in 22 states. We have also supported hundreds of individual change-makers through their annual fellowship for development communication and awards for community service. NFI's programs and initiatives have extended their reach in both rural and urban areas.

The foundation has a pan-India presence and has supported initiatives in several states and regions, including Bihar, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, West Bengal, and the Northeastern states. The organization relentlessly believes in focusing on continuous and long-lasting impact by empowering the marginalized community in India.

How We Do

NFI is governed by an independent Board of Directors and is headed by the Executive Director. The decisions are implemented by a professional team of social work domain experts from development sectors, researchers, communication, finance, human resources, and administration. NFI collaborates with grassroots organizations, civil society groups, academic institutions, and government agencies to implement its programs and initiatives.

The foundation's work is guided by the principles of social justice, equity, and sustainability, and it strives to build strong partnerships with diverse stakeholders to promote inclusive and sustainable development in India.



Administration

Board Members

- Satyananda Mishra (Current Chairperson)
- Prof. Rama V Baru
- Gagan Sethi

Staff

- Biraj Patnaik (Executive Director)
- Narayan Devnathan
- Imsutoshi
- Ipsapratibimbita Sarangi
- Khilanand Joshi
- Mangkhanlal Gualnam
- Mohammad Raza
- Neelay Singh
- Nitin Sethi
- Rajeev R Pillai
- Rohtash Kumar
- Rumana Nizami
- Santosh Kumar
- Samira Mallick
- Satyendra Pandey
- Mahtab Alam
- Sufian Farooqui
- Pooja Gupta
- Faraz A. Mohammad
- Soubam Bidyarani
- Utpala Chakma

From ED's Chair

Building on our previous years' work, this year we focused on expanding our initiatives and launching new programmes which further enable social justice across the country.

Learning from 'Ankuran', our flagship programme with 20 women civil society leaders from marginalised communities, we launched another initiative Bandhutva, to strengthen grassroots civil society organisations (CSOs). It is an effort to support and enable 10 emerging CSOs who are actively working on the issues of girls and women especially from Dalit, Muslim and Adivasi (DMA) communities and work with them and build their capacities on constitutional values and civic space. These organisations are working in seven states viz. Bihar, Delhi, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra and West Bengal.

We continued our ongoing efforts to recognise and promote grassroots leadership under Bharat Ratna C Subramaniam Awards for Community Leaders. We launched another award programme this year namely Kamla Bhasin Award for Driving the World towards Gender Equality. Named after Kamla Bhasin, feminist icon, poet, educationist and a pioneer of the women's rights movement in South Asia, the award intends to honour and celebrate her lifetime of achievements. It is also meant to encourage the efforts being taken by women, men and trans-persons to fight patriarchy and work towards a gender-just society where women can acquire livelihood with dignity and gain control over their lives and bodies.

This year, we also started to conceptualise and design a rural internship programme for young students, which primarily aims to promote rigorous academic scholarship among university students towards the rural economy and sensitise them to the challenges faced by rural communities in the country. The programme will be launched in the next few months, with a plan to offer internship to 300 students in next three years.

Meanwhile, our work on peacebuilding and conflict transformation in the states of Nagaland, Manipur and Assam using the SDG framework, allows us to continue the work of NFI (over the decades) in the region, as well as meaningfully engage young people to work towards a more lasting and positive peace.

We are deeply grateful to the communities whose resilience in the face of adversity is one of the greatest inspirations. We also would like to thank our donors for their trust, partners who continued their work on the ground despite the challenges, and our supporters from across civil society whose (continued and constant) support helps us in achieving our mission of enabling social justice.

Biraj Patnaik
Executive Director

NFI In Action



Ankuran: Supporting Women-Led CSOs



ANKURAN is one of the flagship programmes of NFI, to work with 20 women leaders from the Dalit, Adivasi and minority communities who are leading grassroot organisations. The objective of the programme is to strengthen their work, focussing on institutional growth, and deepening democratic and constitutional values. This programme has been designed in alignment to NFI's mission of promoting social justice through 'strengthening civil society on governance and inclusion and shaping philanthropy' by promoting leadership, enabling capacities, mobilising resources, and providing platform for dialogue for the partner CSOs. The programme is being implemented in Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, and Odisha. During the reporting period, following activities were carried out in the programme states:

- Following a thorough selection procedure comprising the field visits, round tables, virtual meetings and comprehensive due diligence, NFI could partner with 5 CSOs from Chhattisgarh, 8 from Madhya Pradesh, and 7 from Odisha under ANKURAN programme.
- A learning cohort of all 20 CSOs was constituted on International Women's Day i.e., 8th March, 2022 to create bonding among CSO partners, owning the ANKURAN programme with its objectives and planning for their organizational development.
- Orientation and handholding were provided to the partners on proposal development and budget preparation.
- On-field and online capacity building was ensured for micro detailing of the project plan and implementation strategy.
- The formation of cohort with young women leaders with varied experiences resulted in cross learning, growth, and increased capacity to lead and support each other.

Bandhutva: Strengthening Civil Society Organisation



Under this programme, NFI is strengthening 10 emerging CSOs who are actively working on the issues of girls, women and especially with DMA population to build their capacities on constitutional values and civic space. Through this programme, NFI aims to:

- Create a civil society that is committed to constitutional values.
- Provide opportunities for opening civic spaces by building a group of organisations working on similar issues.
- Strengthen stewardship of civil society leaders from Dalit, Muslim, and Adivasi community.

These organisations are working with women and adolescent girls from marginalised communities. They are actively working on grassroots level in seven states namely Bihar, Delhi, Himachal Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.

C Subramaniam Awards for Community Leaders



To encourage the mid-career community leaders and voluntary sector workers, NFI has instituted C Subramaniam awards in memory of Bharataratna Shri C. Subramaniam, the esteemed founding Chairperson of NFI. The programme provides an opportunity for mid-career voluntary sector workers and community leaders to upgrade their skills, understanding and deepen their leadership qualities. Since 2003, NFI has been giving this award and so far, has provided recognition to over 250 voluntary sector workers and community leaders.

The eligibility criteria are that the grassroots organization has worked for at least 8-10 years, engages in a social movement or demonstrated leadership on local issues. These may include- gender justice and social justice, agriculture distress and/or environmental action, freedom of expression and deepening democracy. Awardees are aged between 25-40 years and the preference is given to those from marginalised communities like Dalit, Adivasi, Minority communities, transgender persons, or persons with disability. The prize amount for the award is Rs. 1,00,000/- for one year.

Through these awards, we hope to acknowledge the hard work of community leaders across all states of India.

- This year the award was given to 22 committed community leaders from the manual scavenging community and those helping to organize sanitation workers across India.
- A need assessment exercise was conducted to understand the capacity-building needs of the awardees.
- Orientation cum capacity building program was organized for all the awardees on understanding constitutional values by Ms. Vinita Gursahani Singh. In addition, an online training in digital communication and storytelling was also organised for the awardees.

Kamla Bhasin Award for Driving the World towards Gender Equality

The award is named after Kamla Bhasin, feminist icon, poet, author, educationist and a pioneer of the women's rights movement in South Asia. She was associated with several organisations and movements across the globe. She co-founded Sangat, a South Asian women's network and Jagori, a women's rights NGO in India. She wrote and published several books, booklets, songs and stories, many of which have been reproduced in about 30 languages. An integral part of the global One Billion Rising movement, she was one of the coordinators for the '1000 women for the Nobel Peace Prize' initiative in 2005.



The award encompasses South Asia, to include Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka. The entries for the awards were invited from all the eight South Asian countries of the region. The award includes a citation and cheque of INR 100,000 each, and has been jointly instituted by Azad Foundation, iPartner India, and National Foundation for India in 2022.

Natisara Rai of Nepal and Vidya Rajput of India won the inaugural edition of the award. A five-member jury, chaired by Anu Aga, selected the winners after a careful and rigorous process. Other members of the jury included, Khushi Kabir (Bangladesh), Binda Pandey (Nepal) Salil Shetty (India) and Namita Bhandare (India).

Climate & Communities

India's regional and socio-economic diversity has resulted in uneven distribution of the past and ongoing impacts of climate change and energy transition. One of the main reasons is that existing discourse on energy and climate policies is informed by top-down decision making, with little to no participation from impacted communities, especially in rural and marginalised areas of India. This is further exacerbated by information asymmetry, de-platforming of rural stakeholders and barriers to communication. The climate programme at National Foundation for India aims to indigenise the discourse on India's climate change and energy policy and create a framework that drives community ownership of climate action.

We believe there is space for a programme that sensitises, informs, and advocates climate action by keeping people at the centre of debate. The ongoing programme on climate change is aimed to assist marginalised communities through:

- Evidence based research
- Community dialogues on local and regional levels
- Building social coalitions



During the reporting period, we carried out an extensive exercise to assess the resilience among the communities in the coal-bearing districts in Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, and Odisha to transition away from coal. This included field travel to the six districts (two in each above-mentioned state), and communities to conduct surveys and focus group discussions, meetings with state and district level officials. The visits helped in understanding the direction and trend and state policies across different sectors and civil society organisations who will become likely partners for future work in livelihood and capacity building.

Moreover, NFI is embarking on a program to bring partners (individuals and institutions) from multiple indigenous communities together in a network to turn indigenous knowledge into common knowledge – that can be used and accessed by all. This program will bring together community members, climate workers, local and state level governmental and nongovernmental bodies, climate experts on a unified platform. To begin with, the program will be rolled out in Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Odisha and Madhya Pradesh. These states have rich indigenous communities, often without networks and access to common knowledge (receiving or giving).

To further our objective of creating Climate Consciousness, we are also collaborating with Harvard University's Mittal Institute for South Asia, aims to raise mass awareness and drive action on climate change by creating culturally resonant discourse and engaging diverse stakeholders across government, academia, industry, communities, and civil society organizations, ultimately striving for holistic climate justice and resilience.

Leaving No One Behind



Leaving No One Behind is a peace building pathway and an initiative through engagement of civil society organisations and youth leadership in northeast India. The programme is being implemented in the states of Assam, Manipur & Nagaland. During the reporting period, following activities were undertaken:

- To build the capacities of youth on the SDG framework and peacebuilding, four capacity building trainings were organised.
- Two hundred and ninety-two (292) youth/CSO leaders were facilitated with conflict transformation (refresher training), constitutional values & human rights, SDGs & peace building, and role of young leaders in localizing sustainable development goals in Nagaland.
- Developing CSO Charter for SDGs, the preliminary charter development meeting with the CSO leaders were held in Assam, Nagaland, and Manipur. A two-day consultation meeting was also organized to discuss developing a vision document in each state. More than 170 people from CSOs, academia, and youth groups participated in the consultations.
- Local mobilization and capacity building on SDGs with youth groups, outreach, mobilization of community leaders and awareness events continued throughout the project reporting period. During these events, 310 villages, small towns, and urban localities were outreached, resulting in the mobilization and capacity building of 6247 people, with a participation of 60% women.
- Youth campaigns on SDGs and youth festivals were organised to promote peace building and dialogue through art and cultural exchanges through which 1652 people were engaged on the subject.

NFI Media Fellowship Programme

NFI has been providing Media Fellowships since 1994 and over three decades, we have granted hundreds of fellowships, who come from diverse geographies, gender and social locations. They have published hundreds of in-depth stories and photo features in different media organizations on a broad spectrum of subjects affecting society and development.



The NFI Media Fellowships programme is oriented for independent journalists living and reporting from different parts of the country, excluding the top six metro cities. However, if the applicants from marginalized communities and sections of the society (Dalit, Adivasi, OBCs, Women, Sexual and Religious Minorities) they are eligible for it, even if they are from or live in top six metros. Under the programme, we aim to provide up to 100 fellowships a year to independent journalists with about 25-30 fellowships being granted in each quarter. So far, we have granted fellowships for reporting in seven languages, namely Malayalam, Hindi, Marathi, Nagamese and Urdu, apart from English.

During the reporting period, a total number 100 fellowships were granted in four languages namely Marathi, Urdu, Nagamese and English. In terms of geographical reach, our fellows belonged to over a dozen states including, Uttar Pradesh, Kerala, Assam, Bihar, Nagaland, Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Uttarakhand and Delhi, to name a few. In terms of gender and social diversity, more than 50 percent of our fellows came from marginalized communities and genders such Dalit, Adivasi, OBCs and religious minorities.

Finance

Balance Sheet

NATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR INDIA BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2023

(All amounts in ₹)

(All amounts in ₹)							
Particulars	Schedule	As on 31 March 2023			As on 31 March 2022		
		FCRA	N-FCRA	Total	FCRA	N-FCRA	Total
<u>SOURCES OF FUNDS</u>							
Corpus Fund	1	31,62,83,445	1,74,19,950	33,37,03,395	31,62,83,445	1,74,19,950	33,37,03,395
Capital Assets Fund	2	31,29,047	7,38,506	38,67,553	34,91,922	8,24,076	43,15,998
General Funds	3	5,46,13,257	95,73,096	6,41,86,353	4,60,58,645	1,33,55,146	5,94,13,791
Restricted Funds	4	2,93,23,388	1,00,04,048	3,93,27,436	3,45,54,320	2,43,59,632	5,89,13,952
Unspent Program Fund	5	2,05,76,725	-	2,05,76,725	2,35,73,894	-	2,35,73,894
Provision for depreciation on IHC	6	60,98,400	-	60,98,400	58,21,200	-	58,21,200
Total		43,00,24,263	3,77,35,600	46,77,59,863	42,97,83,426	5,59,58,804	48,57,42,230
<u>APPLICATION OF FUNDS</u>							
Fixed Assets	7	36,10,916	7,72,635	43,83,551	40,75,256	8,61,913	49,37,169
Investments (At Cost)	8						
- Corpus Investments		31,67,80,000	2,00,00,000	33,67,80,000	31,70,84,000	2,00,00,000	33,70,84,000
- Other investments		3,84,20,000	42,00,000	4,26,20,000	3,09,36,738	42,00,000	3,51,36,738
Current Assets	9	7,26,99,148	3,03,42,029	10,30,41,177	8,21,22,075	4,83,52,497	13,04,74,572
Less : Current Liabilities	10	14,85,801	1,75,79,064	1,90,64,865	44,34,642	1,74,55,607	2,18,90,249
Net Current Assets/(Liabilities)		7,12,13,347	1,27,62,965	8,39,76,312	7,76,87,433	3,08,96,891	10,85,84,323
Total		43,00,24,263	3,77,35,600	46,77,59,863	42,97,83,426	5,59,58,804	48,57,42,230

Significant Accounting Policies and Notes to Accounts 14

As per our report of even date
For Rajan, Chakravorthy & Associates
Firm Registration No. : 017670N
Chartered Accountants

For and on behalf of National Foundation for India

S. Chakravorthy
Partner
Membership No. 082138
Place: New Delhi
Date : 28-10-2023
UDIN : 23082138BGZJH19624



Satyananda Mishra
Chairman

Biraj Patnaik
Executive Director

Place: New Delhi
Date : 28-10-2023



Statement of Income and Expenditure

NATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR INDIA STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2023

(All amounts in ₹)

PARTICULARS	SCHEDULE	For the Year Ended 31 March 2023			For the Year Ended 31 March 2022		
		FCRA	N-FCRA	Total	FCRA	N-FCRA	Total
INCOME							
Transfer from Grants : Programmes	4	2,32,57,171	4,70,01,724	7,02,58,895	3,26,59,416	90,75,855	4,17,35,271
Interest on Corpus Fund Investments		1,71,54,463	17,28,100	1,88,82,563	1,90,55,866	25,05,814	2,15,61,680
Interest on SB Accounts		31,77,970	8,50,301	40,28,271	29,59,748	6,99,360	36,59,108
Other Income	11	39,781	39,971	79,752	22,960	17,68,480	17,91,440
Total		4,36,29,385	4,96,20,096	9,32,49,481	5,46,97,990	1,40,49,509.03	6,87,47,500
EXPENDITURE							
Programme Expenses-Grants	12-A	2,62,66,439	4,71,19,724	7,33,86,163	3,26,59,416	90,75,855.00	4,17,35,271
Programme Expenses - Others	12-B	11,28,385	54,41,517	65,69,902	18,35,263	41,82,755.00	60,18,018
Administrative Expenses	13	51,02,504	8,65,300.00	59,67,804	9,17,064	4,00,096.60	13,17,161
Provision For Depreciation on IHC capital assets of common facilities	6	2,77,200	-	2,77,200	2,77,200	-	2,77,200
Total		3,27,74,528	5,34,26,541	8,62,01,069	3,56,88,943	1,36,58,707	4,93,47,650
Excess of Income over Expenditure for the year		1,08,54,857	(38,06,445)	70,48,412	1,90,09,047	3,90,802	1,93,99,849
Less: gratuity expenses(Net)		21,74,139	(24,395)	21,49,744	-	-	-
Less : Provisions for unspent programme fund		1,26,106	-	1,26,106	2,35,73,894	-	2,35,73,894
Balance Carried to Balance Sheet		85,54,612	(37,82,050)	47,72,562	(45,64,847)	3,90,802	(41,74,045)

Significant Accounting Policies and Notes to Accounts

14

The schedules referred to above form an integral part of the Balance Sheet.

As per our report of even date

For Rajan, Chakravarty & Associates

Firm Registration No. : 017670N

Chartered Accountants

S. Chakravarty
Partner
Membership No. 082138
Place: New Delhi
Date : 28-10-2023

UDIN : 23082138BGZIN19624



For and on behalf of National Foundation for India

Satyananda Mishra
Satyananda Mishra
Chairman

Biraj Patnaik
Biraj Patnaik
Executive Director

Place: New Delhi
Date : 28-10-2023

