

India Development and Relief Fund NEWSLETTER: MARCH 2024



Dear Friend,

In this Spring edition of our program updates, I am happy to share that with the generosity of donors like you we are now able to reach more beneficiaries in 21 states of India through 79 NGO partners, one in Nepal and Sri Lanka and nine in the USA. Thank you very much for your continued support for IDRF.

Warm wishes for the spring season,

Dr. Vinod Prakash Founder and President

MRI Machine for a Charitable Hospital, Uttarakhand Ramakrishna Mission Sevashrama Kankhal

The 200-bed multi-specialty hospital was established in 1901. About 100,000+ patients annually benefit from the medical facilities offered here. IDRF has been helping the hospital since 2016 and recently provided a top-notch MRI machine. The price charged for the scans is 50-60% less than the market price in the area, which enables poor patients to use the facility at the hospital itself. The quality of the images is excellent, and the doctors receive the scans in a timely manner.

The MRI machine has been a life changer for many poor patients!

A middle-aged security guard was experiencing weakness in his lower limbs and the high-quality scans done at the hospital revealed he needed an urgent operation for the cervical disc lesions. The *Sevashrama supported the entire cost of the hospitalization and treatment of this poor man.*

In another case, a 15-year-old girl was experiencing severe back pain and her parents decided to get MRI scans done at this hospital due to its lower prices than other places. The high-quality and timely results revealed the girl was suffering from spinal tuberculosis and was immediately provided treatment by the doctors.

Nutritional Supplements for Poor Pregnant Mothers, Tamil Nadu Surabi Trust

Poor nutrition during pregnancy is a major problem in India and causes several health problems for the mother-to-be and her developing baby. IDRF helps provide nutrition powder (made from grains, pulses, nuts, etc.) to 1,000 pregnant and lactating mothers in the backward suburbs of Chennai through the Primary Health Centers. The product is certified by the Food Safety and Standards Authority, India, and lab tested regularly to maintain high quality.



Donor Spotlight

Gogates' dream of giving back to their motherland came true through IDRF's Donor-Preference Program!

Prema and Anil Gogate are successful and respected members of the Indian American community in California. They have donated generously to IDRF for several projects for the needy. Recently they visited our partner Lila Poonawalla Foundation in Pune, and extended their support to 145 young women to pursue post-graduation studies in Engineering and Science courses in Pune, Wardha and Amravati, Maharashtra.



IDRF Book Launch Event and Thank you Dinner

IDRF donors from the Washington DC metro area attended the launch of a memoir by our founder and president Dr. Vinod Prakash followed by a dinner party on March 30th in Gaithersburg, Maryland.



Service Before Self: A Journey of Conviction, Courage and Commitment.

is a moving narration of Dr. Prakash's dedication to serving others over his own personal struggles as a first-generation immigrant, from losing a child to leukemia, to raising another child with cerebral palsy and epilepsy to losing his own eyesight due to medical negligence. Yet despite all his challenges, he has never wavered from his desire to help his motherland and founded one of the largest and most successful non-profits.



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