

CONNECTING THE UNHEARD VOICES

Annual Report 2013-2014



चरखा[™]
CHARKHA[™]

DEVELOPMENT COMMUNICATION NETWORK

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REPORT ON GOVERNANCE

A Governing Body with eminent members drawn from the development sector, legal profession, media and the corporate sector governs Charkha. The Board meets twice a year to review the Programs and Projects and offer guidance in strategic planning and operational aspects of the initiatives.

A system of Concurrent Audits ensures the compliance of all accounting and fiscal procedures and the robustness of financial systems and procedures.

A Code of Conduct ensures transparency and integrity among all employees by setting out the broad policies of acceptable conduct.

Board Meetings

During the year under review, two Board Meetings were held, on September 13, 2013 and March 19, 2014. All statutory and other important items / information were placed for Board approval / review.

Bankers

ICICI Bank Limited, Vasant Vihar,
New Delhi 110 057

Axis Bank, Palam Vihar,
Gurgaon 122017

Statutory Auditors

Sandeep Sumit & Associates
B-4/2A, Keshav Puram,
Lawrence Road, Delhi - 110035

Legal Status

Charkha is a registered Charitable Organization under the Societies Registration Act 1860. Registration No. S/26836 dated October 24, 1994

Charkha is registered with the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India under the FCRA 1976. Registration No. 231650999 dated July 13, 1999

Charkha is registered under Section 80G(5)(VI) of the Income Tax Act 1961. Registration No. NQ.DIT (E)/2011- 2012/DEL-CE23219 – 15092011 / 1891 with effect from Annual Year 2012-13

Charkha is registered under Section 12(A) of the Income Tax Act 1961. Registration No. DIT (E)/95-96/C-433/95/911

PROGRAM: DEVELOPMENT IN AREAS OF CONFLICT

Project	COMMUNITY NETWORKS FOR AN INCLUSIVE CIVIL SOCIETY	
Location	District Poonch, Jammu region, Jammu & Kashmir State	
Support	British High Commission	
Period	Year 2 of 3	
Context	<p>The encouraging response received from the initial forays into the remote Poonch District at the Line of Control (LoC) in Year 1 (2012-13) formed the foundation for local youth learning the skills and accessing the information required to improve their access to Government benefits like pensions, scholarships and other welfare schemes. The improvement in linkages between the people and the State is the touchstone of these efforts. This is particularly crucial in a region that has seen conflict for many decades now, and the youth keen to meet their aspirations for a better quality of life for themselves and their communities.</p>	
Framework	<p>Purpose Local communities' capacities built to highlight their development issues through the media and improve their access to State delivery mechanisms</p> <p>Outputs Local groups' capacities developed to write articles on local development concerns of the people and successful community initiatives Improved awareness of State – sponsored schemes and opportunities among local communities Network linkages comprising local communities, State departments and civil society organizations for follow up and accessing/availing services</p>	
Activities	<p>Several residential Skill Building Sessions on Media & Social Advocacy Creating a platform for Government officials to interact with the Media Advocates (rural writers) and Social Advocates (those helping people with availing welfare benefits) being nurtured through the skill-building processes Setting up a Rural Resource Centre where youth share their writings and experiences; gain digital literacy and access information about Government policies and schemes Disseminating articles through Charkha Feature Service in English, Hindi and Urdu\ Sanjoy Ghose Media Fellowships 2013 announced</p>	

Project COMMUNITY NETWORKS FOR AN INCLUSIVE CIVIL SOCIETY

(Clockwise from top left) (i) The Project highlights the living conditions in extremely remote villages where the virtual absence of State presence has resulted in non-existence of any roads or bridges; (ii) Making efforts to involve women in the skill building programs; (iii) Engaging with local communities and assisting in filling forms for availing welfare schemes; (iv) One of a series of Orientation Sessions for the *Sanjoy Ghose Media Fellows 2013*



The high point of the year's field work was an event organized in Poonch District, Jammu region to showcase the work that Charkha's writers have been doing in Poonch during the past two years. In a unique coming together, the government, security forces and media, represented by the DC Poonch, as the Chief Guest, an Officer of the security forces as the Guest of Honour and the Chief Editor of *Udaan*, Jammu's leading Urdu daily, as a Guest Speaker, attended the event that also saw Panchayat representatives, local media and communities attending in large numbers.

PROGRAM: DISTANT AREAS PROGRAM

Project	BUILDING BRIDGES WITH COMMUNICATIONS: CREATING TWO-WAY COMMUNICATION NETWORKS IN LADAKH FOR EMPOWERING YOUTH, PARTICULARLY WOMEN
Location	District Kargil, Ladakh, Jammu & Kashmir State
Support Period	Unniti – India Year 1 of 3
Context	Tough geography and harsh climate have protected and isolated Ladakh from the world outside, as also its proximity to a controversial international border. This has created unusual circumstances within which everyday life is a challenge. Making basic services available is a challenge for the State. However, speaking up against the flawed elements in governance and questioning inequitable social norms steeped in conservative patriarchal tradition requires an appropriate platform, which the Charkha initiative seeks to create with a small group of local youth, particularly women.
Framework	<p>Purpose To create a sustainable two-way communication network that enables young people, especially women, gain access to the most pressing issues of the local people; and advocate for policy changes at a state and national level through mainstream media</p> <p>Outputs Nurturing a pool of community-based young writers and social advocates, especially women Placement of quality articles on relevant issues in mainstream media Create effective platforms connecting young people with PRI members, District administration, civil society organizations and local media</p>
Activities	Skill Building Sessions for creative use of Media like print media and radio Generation and dissemination of articles on development issues of Ladakh region



Project

BUILDING BRIDGES WITH COMMUNICATIONS: CREATING TWO-WAY COMMUNICATION NETWORKS IN LADAKH FOR EMPOWERING YOUTH, PARTICULARLY WOMEN

(Clockwise from top left) (i) The Sanjoy Ghose Media Fellowships selected two bright young Ladakhi women whose research-based findings highlighted the social issues affecting women; (ii) Stakeholders include State, Media and local NGOs in the area – all are essential for sustainability of the initiative; (iii) Exploring radio as a medium to share information, since it is the most popular and effective mass medium; (iv) A group of young social and media advocates can pave the way towards sustainability



Project BUILDING BRIDGES WITH COMMUNICATIONS: CREATING TWO-WAY COMMUNICATION NETWORKS IN LADAKH FOR EMPOWERING YOUTH, PARTICULARLY WOMEN

Some articles from District Kargil, Ladakh, written by rural writers and published, through Charkha's award-winning Trilingual Feature Service, in leading publications in English, Hindi and Urdu

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News & Interviews Jun, 2013

Heartbreak on the LoC [Send Comments](#)



Chelma Verma & Mohammad Ali Khan, Kargil

Birds and rivers are like the breeze
No border can halt them
Borders are for people
Think
What have we achieved?

Ladakh is waking up to the cries of environment

May 1, 4:12 pm



Kargil, May 1 (ANI): Its summer season and all of us are busy planning the destination that will give us some respite from the sweltering heat of the metropolitans. As the trend goes - what better than the snow covered hills and the gorgeous vistas of the beautiful Ladakh valley that offers warm hospitality at its best? Families, friends,

honeymooners go there in great numbers, enjoy the scenic beauty, shop and come back: but there is more to this "been there, done that" experience.

COLUMNISTS

HIMALAYAN EVIL THAT MUST BE CONTAINED
Tuesday, 09 July 2013 | Stanzin Kunzang Angmo | in Oped

Visitors to Ladakh are mesmerised by its raw beauty and the scope that it offers for adventure tourism. But hidden behind the charisma of this once-isolated region is the prospering of casteism, which has made its people's lives miserable, writes Stanzin Kunzang Angmo

The journey of Ladakh to becoming one of India's leading tourist destinations, is not a recent one. Yet it continues to see an unprecedented rise in its tourism industry with every passing year. Attracting visitors from across the globe, besides its picturesque landscapes and great opportunities for adventure sports, is the rich Ladakhi culture that adds myriad hues to the otherwise arid land.

For several years, the vivacious culture of Ladakh remained confined within the periphery of two great mountain ranges — the Himalayas and the Karakoram. The turning point came in 1960, when the cold desert region was linked with the neighbouring Kashmir valley by road. It was to be another 14 years before foreign travellers were allowed permission to visit this sensitive region, in 1974. Foreign visitors found the spellbinding terrain ideal for trekking, mountaineering, jeep safaris, biking and river rafting. The monasteries evoked the interest of historians, anthropologists and scholars alike. However, with the physical barriers melting, the mental barriers existing within the Ladakhi society have only seen an

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Breaking News: Serial blasts rock LoC in Poonch

Socially constructed caste system in Leh
Posted on July 7, 2013 by Dailyexcelsior

Stanzin Kunzang Angmo

CONFLICT ZONE

Kargil's male bastion




of rigid conservative religious and cultural beliefs and obligations. From more disrupting, this ideological abscission influences young minds too.

One example of this kind of conservatism is the student union founded by 'well educated' students to assist youth studying in cities like Delhi, Jaipur and Gangotri. The union has just a few female members. They have no voice. The decisions of the union are guided by their schools or religious institutions. An initiative to include a girl representative in the union was turned down by male members.

In this conservative atmosphere it is unlikely that male members of the LAHDC will address the social or economic status of women. The two nominated women are given no portfolio. They don't have much say in fund distribution or in framing policies and drawing up schemes. The women are not even efficient candidates, unlike the 'Shogpa' based efficient males of Kargil.

Fida Hussain, Deputy Commissioner of Kargil district, blames the lack of a sense of collective identity amongst the women for their low level of participation. Zahra Binu often socialises privately and innumerable as major impediments.

Fuza Binu a resident of Akhmal village, refused to join her village panchayat since she feared her local community would harass her with their 'moral' harassment. Rebuffed, but never discouraged, Zahra says "Young boys used to pass love documents when they saw me around. And the groom up denounced me for having stood for elections against an Agha".

Yet she continued. And lost. But it doesn't matter to Zahra. She explains the reason she stood for elections was to give the eye for other women, to motivate them to participate and to help them cultivate a sense of collective identity.

The LAHDC drives up development programmes and implements centrally sponsored schemes for the district. It also reviews the progress of plans and schemes. The LAHDC is responsible for employment generation, constitution of notified area committees, education, funding of small scale cottage industries, vocational training public health, sanitation and so on. Each committee has a gender fund of ₹10 lakh. But women say they do not receive their share of money.

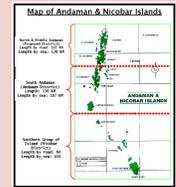
"We are made to run from one office to the next with no positive response for funds sanctioned for our cause," says Zahra, who runs a Women's Welfare Committee.

Tired of their male leaders, women in Kargil have invited a 'women for women' jangle. In Kargil patriarchal society, gender industries through cooperatives and self-helping implementation emerge as the education. Political participation of women at all levels needs to be ensured.

PROGRAM: DISTANT AREAS PROGRAM

Project ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION IN SCHOOLS THROUGH THE CREATIVE USE OF MEDIA

Location Districts of South Andaman and North-&-Middle-Andaman
Andaman & Nicobar Islands



Support Sir Dorabji Tata Trust

Period Year 3 of 3 (Extension)

Context The Project had seen the establishment of 25 Eco Clubs in government schools across the Andaman group of Islands by the end of Year Three (2012-13). The primary challenge was to sustain the initiative by strengthening linkages with the UT's Administration across departments such that the Eco Clubs do not become an isolated set of project activities but are integrated into the development agenda of the islands' governance. The administration was willing to consider the inclusion of the initiative into the curriculum of the schools, but required due process to be followed before it was introduced. An extension was therefore sought to take the Project to this logical conclusion.

Framework Purpose

To highlight the development concerns of the rural disadvantaged communities through a women writers' forum for promising Ladakhi women

Outputs

Improved Communication Skills among rural community groups and media persons to effectively highlight the development issues of the people, particularly women

Improved visibility of Ladakh's development issues in the mainstream media

Activities Setting up and running Eco Clubs in schools, incorporating classroom and field activities into the co-curricular exercises
Working with teachers and the local administration on making this an integral part of the education system across the Union Territory
Creating resource material and teaching aids specific to the Island ecosystems
Networking with all associated Government departments to create a sustainable and balanced resource pool

Project

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION IN SCHOOLS THROUGH THE CREATIVE USE OF MEDIA

(Clockwise from top left) (i) Efforts were made to involve different subject teachers along with the Eco Club teachers so that the activities could be broad-based across the student body in all schools; (ii) Wading near the shore to take a closer look at the mangroves that they have grown up around, for example, gave the islander children an understanding of the unique role that these natural barriers play in protecting the coastline; (iii) Visits to visually-engaging centers of information like the Forest Department's '**Marine Interpretation Centre**' were arranged; (iv) Exhibitions, annual fairs and other such events in the academic calendar serve as crucial milestones in the journey of sensitization towards environmental issues



TRILINGUAL FEATURE SERVICE

The Trilingual Feature Service is growing in volume and improving in quality since being integrated with the Projects in select states. This is evident from the progress towards positive changes on the ground in respect of the issues being written about. Acceptance of *Charkha Features* is consistently improving with published articles appearing regularly in leading dailies, particularly at the State-level, and increased acceptance in print and online media in the three languages, English, Hindi and Urdu.



OTHER INITIATIVES

CHARKHA WRITERS' CONSULTATION

Encouraged by the success of the first Charkha Writers Consultation in 2012-13, the second such Consultation was held on December 5-6, 2013. It brought together Charkha writers from different states to a common platform where the rich repository of experiences served to generate ideas from the best practices presented.



SANJOY GHOSE RURAL FELLOWSHIPS 2014

The first ever Rural Fellowships were announced to provide a platform to those rural writers who, going beyond writing, are keen to bring change through their writings. Their proposals identify the change they intend to trigger over a period of one year of work. Charkha has committed to providing regular nurturing and assistance to each Fellow during the course of their Fellowship.

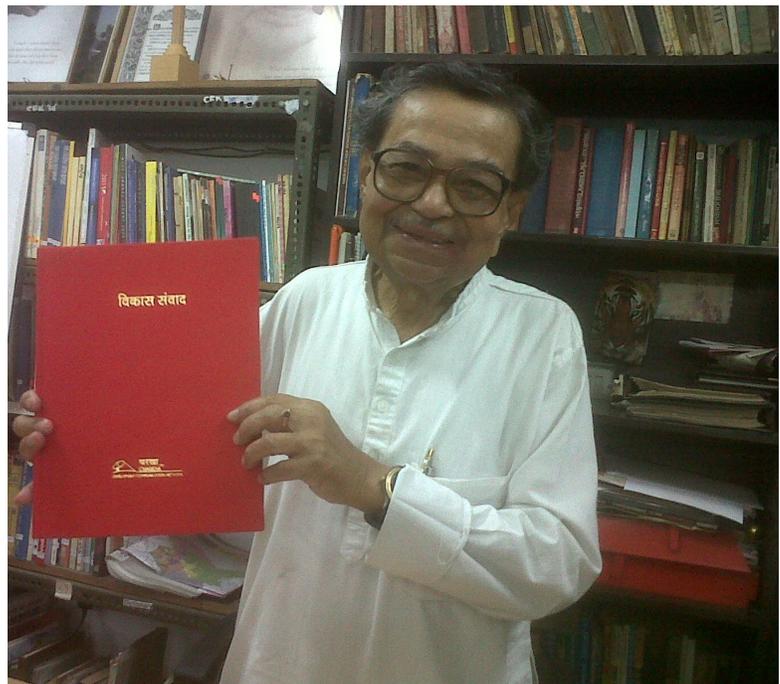


RELEASE OF CHARKHA PUBLICATION 'VIKAS SAMVAD'

The second edition of Charkha Samvad was released by the President, Mr Shankar Ghose.

This publication has been put together in-house by the Charkha team.

It is expected to serve as a valuable resource book for budding writers, particularly those who join Charkha's rural writers' network across India.



MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNING BODY

- | | |
|---|-----------------------|
| 1. Mr. Shankar Ghose
Former Executive Director and CEO, National Foundation for India | President |
| 2. Ms. Kiran Aggarwal, (IAS Retd.)
Former Principal Advisor – Planning Commission | Vice President |
| 3. Mr. Anil Singh
Secretary General, SANSAD | Treasurer |
| 4. Mr. Tilak Mukherji
Chairman and Chief Mentor, Sigma | Member |
| 5. Mr. Prashanto Chandra Sen
Advocate, Supreme Court of India | Member |
| 6. Ms. Usha Rai
Development Journalist | Member |
| 7. Mr. Mathew Cherian
Chief Executive, Help Age India | Member |
| 8. Ms. Tasneem Ahmadi
Advocate, Supreme Court of India | Member |
| 9. Mr. Kaushik Dutta
Chartered Accountant and
Director, Thought Arbitrage Research Institute | Member |
| 10. Mr. Salman Haider
Former Foreign Secretary and Ambassador | Member |
| 11. Harmala Gupta
Founder & President, Cansupport | Member |
| 12. Pritpal Marjara
Managing Director, PSI – India | Member |
| 13. Sumita Ghose
Founder & Executive Director, Rangсутra | Member |

TEAM CHARKHA

Senior Management Team

1. Anshu Mala Meshack
Chief Executive Officer
2. Mario Noronha
Dy Director - Operations

Editorial & Project Team

3. Chetna Verma
English Feature Service
4. Richa Pathak
Hindi Feature Service
5. Gohar Asif
Hindi Feature Service
6. Anisur Rahman Khan
Urdu Feature Service

Administration & Finance Team

7. Sanjay Mishra
 8. Dhiraj Kumar
-