

शिशु घर

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शिशु घर का समय सुबह..... बजे से शाम..... बजे तक

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NEWSLETTER

INSIDE CARD: SHISHU GHAR





शिशु घर

To support working families and ensure safe early childhood care in rural communities, CARD is implementing the Shishughar Program in Dhar Block of Dhar district, Madhya Pradesh, with the support of Azim Premji Foundation.

The program aims to establish community-based creche centres for children aged 7 months to 3 years, providing a safe environment, nutritious food, attentive care, and regular monitoring of children's well-being. In cases where children are found to be weak or undernourished, referral support is also facilitated.

By creating reliable childcare spaces within villages, the initiative helps ensure that young children receive proper care and early stimulation while their families manage daily livelihoods.

Strengthening Early Childhood Care in Dhar

Two creche centres are operational in Sejwaya and Jamanda, while centres in Badchhapra, Utawad, and Antrai are under renovation and will begin operations soon.

To manage the centres, 10 caregivers were recruited for five centres through a structured selection process.

The Creche / Shishughar Program represents an important step toward strengthening early childhood care systems in rural Dhar. Through trained caregivers, community engagement, and structured childcare spaces, the initiative aims to ensure that young children receive safe care, proper nutrition, and opportunities for early learning, while also supporting families and communities.



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MONTH



MoU Signed to Expand Skill Development Initiatives

In February, an MoU was signed between CARD and the Management & Entrepreneurship and Professional Skills Council (MEPSC) to facilitate assessment and certification under the Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) program for employees deployed at the Mahakal Temple Complex, Ujjain. The program will cover around 1,000 participants, focusing on skill recognition, workplace effectiveness, and women's safety.

Pond Restoration Strengthens Water Security in Shajapur

On 17 February 2026, a Jal Samvaad and Water Conference was organised in Morta Kewdi village, Shujalpur Block, under the Jal Samridhhi Project implemented by CARD with support from the Swaraj Division. The event highlighted pond renovation outcomes, improved water availability, and community experiences, with participation from Panchayat representatives, officials, farmers, and villagers.



Stakeholder Consultation on Regenerative Agriculture

A multi-stakeholder consultation in Jabalpur brought together representatives from government departments, civil society organisations, research institutions, and Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) to discuss climate-resilient regenerative agriculture in the vegetable oil value chain, focusing on sustainable practices, soil health, market linkages, and collaboration to support farmers' transition.

Solar Infrastructure and Community Facilities Strengthened in Sikkim

CARD Sikkim installed 92 solar street lights across project villages to improve night-time safety, mobility, and accessibility. The initiative helps residents move safely after dark while promoting clean and sustainable energy. The team also supported local schools and health institutions through Bala painting in school buildings and distribution of medical testing kits during community health initiatives, strengthening access to education and health services.



FIELD STORIES

Training PRI Representatives for Stronger Local Governance in Guna district



Under the Axis Bank Foundation-supported project in Chachaura, Guna district, CARD organised a one-day training programme for PRI representatives from 15 Gram Panchayats. The session aimed to strengthen the capacity of Panchayat leaders in participatory planning and local governance.

Government officials interacted with the participants and shared insights on Gram Panchayat Development Planning (GPDP), strategies to enhance Panchayat revenue, and prioritisation of development schemes. The training helped build a clearer understanding of the planning process and encouraged PRI members to play a more active role in grassroots development and community-led decision-making.

Learning from the Field: Exposure Visit for Panchayat Leaders

Representatives from nine Gram Panchayats of Chachaura block visited Gram Panchayat Kumharra in Mandla district for an exposure visit to observe the implementation of GPDP and NREGA initiatives. Participants interacted with local officials and community members to understand planning processes, implementation strategies, and effective use of government schemes. The visit highlighted the importance of community participation, transparent planning, and departmental convergence for sustainable village development.



Stakeholder Visit for Regenerative Farming



Senior representatives from IDH Global and programme partners visited project villages in Umarban, Dhar district, to review the progress of

regenerative agriculture initiatives. The delegation interacted with farmers and community institutions to understand adoption of sustainable practices and visited cotton and fennel demonstration plots, discussing soil health and crop management while reviewing field progress and strengthening collaboration.

Restoration Mapping Training



A one-day training under the Harit Bharat Fund supported Landscape Restoration Project was conducted in Gram Panchayat Khamaliya, Sardarpur Block, District Dhar. The session focused on village-level planning and training on the use of a mobile application for Landscape Restoration mapping and survey work in the project villages.

PROJECT PROGRESS

Promoting Climate-Resilient Agriculture

Training programmes and demonstration activities were organised across multiple clusters in Chachaura, Guna district, to promote Zaid season crops, particularly summer moong cultivation. The sessions focused on preparing farmers for seasonal crop planning and strengthening field-level demonstrations. During the training, farmers received guidance on improved crop management practices, efficient use of water and inputs, and scientific cultivation techniques aimed at enhancing crop productivity and profitability. These efforts are encouraging farmers to adopt improved practices for better agricultural outcomes.



Capacity Building for Community Institutions in Dindori district

Capacity-building trainings were organised in Dindori district for CSOs, FPO members, lead farmers, Krishi Sakhis, and community institutions to strengthen understanding of sustainable and regenerative agriculture. The sessions focused on climate-resilient farming, soil health management, and community-based approaches, while encouraging collaboration to support farmers in adopting sustainable practices.



Community Infrastructure and Renewable Energy Initiatives in Sikkim

CARD Sikkim supported several community initiatives to improve local infrastructure and community well-being. These included installing solar street lights to enhance safety and mobility, providing schools with materials and learning-environment improvements, and distributing agricultural and community-use materials to beneficiaries. These efforts have helped strengthen sustainable development in project villages, improving access to basic services while encouraging environmentally friendly solutions and community participation.

HEALTH, NUTRITION & EDUCATION

Strengthening Anganwadi Services

A workshop for Anganwadi Workers was organised in Pakyong district, Sikkim, to strengthen the delivery of key ICDS services. The session focused on enhancing the role and skills of Anganwadi workers in supporting early childhood care and development.

Special emphasis was placed on cognitive development, play-based learning, and child engagement activities, helping frontline workers create more effective and child-friendly learning environments at Anganwadi centres.



Adolescent Health and Hygiene Awareness



Training sessions were organised in government schools in Sikkim to promote health, hygiene, and personal well-being among adolescents. The sessions raised awareness about daily hygiene practices, healthy habits, and personal health. Students from multiple grades actively participated in interactive discussions, helping build greater awareness and encouraging the adoption of healthy and hygienic lifestyles.

Early Childhood Care through Shishughar Initiative

Under the Azim Premji Foundation-supported Crèche Programme, the third Shishughar centre was inaugurated in Badchhapra village, Dhar district. The centre provides safe childcare, nutrition, and growth monitoring for children aged 7



months to 3 years, supporting working families and helping identify and prevent malnutrition through regular monitoring

Community Health Outreach

CARD supported a Non-Communicable Disease (NCD) Health Camp in collaboration with a local health institution in Sikkim, aiming to improve community access to basic health screening services. During the camp, medical testing kits were provided to support the screening process.

The initiative encouraged community members to undergo early detection and screening for conditions such as hypertension and diabetes, helping raise awareness about preventive healthcare and promoting healthier lifestyles within the community.



TALK AROUND HEAD OFFICE

Annual General Body Meeting Held at CARD Office



The Annual General Body Meeting of Centre for Advanced Research and Development (CARD) was held on 9 February 2026 at its Bhopal office. Members reviewed ongoing projects, staff capacity-building, infrastructure updates, and communication strategies, and discussed new project pipelines, approvals, auditor rotation, and governance improvements, assigning action points for timely implementation.

Academic Exposure Visit by RNTU Students

A group of 18 students from the BSW/MSW/Management programmes of RNTU University, accompanied by Dr. Manisha Pandey and Dr. Nikita Nagori, visited CARD for an educational exposure. The visit introduced students to the organisation's structure, key functions, and development initiatives, offering insights into its community development work.



Inauguration of the 39th AC&ABC Training Batch

The 39th batch of the Agri-Clinics & Agri-Business Centre (AC&ABC) training was inaugurated on 13 February 2026 at CARD, Bhopal. Twenty-one participants joined the 45-day residential programme promoting agri-entrepreneurship.



Annual Review Meeting on DSR Project

An annual review meeting on the Direct Seeded Rice (DSR) project was held on 13-14 February 2026 to review Year 1 progress and plan the implementation strategy for Year 2. Discussions focused on finalising the annual report and integrating an MIS dashboard to strengthen monitoring.



Weekly Health Check-ups for Staff Well-being

As part of its commitment to employee well-being, CARD conducts weekly health check-ups for all staff at the Head Office, carried out by Dr. Giriraj Vyas (BAMS). The initiative supports preventive healthcare, encourages early diagnosis of health concerns, and promotes a healthy work environment.

STORIES THAT ECHO

Millet Entrepreneurship Creates Local Opportunities

In Mohla district, a women-led millet-based bakery unit supported under the PARIVARTAN programme has started receiving institutional orders from government departments. The unit is producing value-added millet products such as bakery items and ragi laddus, demonstrating the growing demand for nutritious millet-based foods.

This initiative is helping rural women transform traditional crops into marketable products, strengthening local entrepreneurship while creating sustainable livelihood opportunities and promoting the nutritional value of millets.



Women Showcase Skills at ODOP Food Festival in Mandla

Under the Safe Tourist Destination for Women (STDW) initiative supported by Madhya Pradesh Tourism, local women received cooking and skill-based training.



Women's Skill Training Builds Confidence and Independence

Women from De-notified, Nomadic, and Semi-Nomadic Tribes (DNT) communities in Ujjain district are gaining livelihood opportunities through skill training in tailoring and beauty services. After completing the training, 92 participants were trained, certified, and provided with toolkits, enabling them to start small enterprises and strengthen their financial independence and sustainable livelihoods.

During the two-day One District One Product (ODOP) food festival in Mandla, members of the Mandla Mahila Vikas Samiti participated by setting up two food stalls serving nutritious kodo-kutki dishes and one souvenir stall displaying handmade art and craft products, generating income opportunities.





From the Editors' Desk

Dear Readers,

Our team continues to make every effort to bring together stories from the field and share glimpses of the work being carried out across our initiatives. Each edition of this newsletter is our attempt to document these experiences and present them to you.

We would also be happy to hear from you. Your thoughts, feedback, and appreciation for the newsletter are what encourage us to keep moving forward and continue telling these stories.

As we create each new issue, we aim to offer a small sneak peek into one or more of the many initiatives currently underway. While our work spans several communities and activities, this newsletter serves as a window that tries to capture and share as many of those efforts as possible.

We hope you enjoy reading it as much as we enjoy bringing it together for you.

Warm regards,
The Editors



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