Towards writing a new story...
Vision

NCAS is a pro-active learning organisation that works toward a participatory, rights based and people-centred environment and a transparent and accountable governance, so as to advance human rights, equitable social change and distributive justice,

The Mission of NCAS is to create an Enabling Environment for Social Action Groups, Social Change Agents and Citizens to get access to democratic institutions and to effectively advocate the rights of the marginalised sections so as to empower them [the marginalised sections include especially women, tribals, dalits and labourers in the unorganised sector].

Executive Committee

Mr. John Samuel (President)
Mr. Jagadananda (secretary)
Ms. Keerti (Treasurer)
Ms. Aasha Ramesh
Ms. Advaita Marathe
Mr. Amitabh Behar
Mr. BDA Satyababu
Mr. Bhanwar Singh Chadana
Ms. Enakshi Ganguly-Thukral
Ms. Razia Patel
Foreword

I am very happy to present the Annual Report for the year 2015-16. This has been another eventful year for NCAS. It has brought some new avenues of opportunities for the organisation. The year can be seen as a year dedicated to further consolidating NCAS as one of India’s finest social change resource centers. During the course of the year, several active efforts have been taken to further consolidate its position.

First, we have made an effort to focus on issues concerning the Adivasi people from a constituency perspective this year. Thematically, our focus has been on health and education as primary target areas for work. This concentration has further helped us expand our reach within these areas.

We had promised at end of the last year that NCAS would write a new story. We are following through with these objectives, and are continuing on this path. NCAS is working towards strengthening the relations with partners and stakeholders, as well as building the knowledge base through expanding the research efforts.

With the end of another busy, yet exciting year we would like to inform you about our efforts, achievement and areas of further improvement through this annual report.

We welcome your feedback and suggestions.

In Solidarity,

Amit Narkar
Executive Director
Advocacy Learning & Capacity Building

NCAS facilitates Capacity Building on People-centred Advocacy at grassroots, regional, national and international levels and through Advocacy Internship and Institutional Capacity Development. NCAS has over the years created a niche in capacity building and knowledge management, especially on the themes of livelihood rights, environmental justice, and governance.

Academic Programmes

In our endeavour to mainstream learning from over two decades of work on advocacy and 12 batches of the Advocacy Internship Programme, we have launched academic programmes on various themes in Public Policy Analysis and People-Centred Advocacy. These courses are offered to students of Schools of Social Work, Social Sciences, Law, Journalism, etc. Openness to learn, receptivity to new ideas, and keenness to take up challenges are seen as most important criteria.

Month-long course on Advocacy is conducted for post graduate students from disciplines of social work, law, rural development, sociology, political science, media etc.

Summer Course on People-Centred Advocacy

A summer course on People-Centred Advocacy was organised for students from different academic disciplines. Total 19 participants from different parts of the country enrolled for the course. The objective of the course was to build a pro-people perspective and impart knowledge and skills necessary for an effective advocacy. Two of the participants continued on to internships at NCAS and one participant helped in developing advocacy briefs on child rights. Another participant joined NCAS as a programme assistant in the year 2016-17. The course aimed to develop a holistic and nuanced understanding of issues that plague our country.
Advocacy and Capacity Building Workshops

Capacity building in people-centred advocacy for social causes is an area of focus as well as expertise of NCAS. This year NCAS organised several workshops which included the areas of health budget analysis, people-centred advocacy, right to food, child rights and right to education. Through these workshops, we were able to reach out to around 150 activists from across the country and from South Asia and interact with them on critical social issues and public policies and significance of people-centred advocacy for social change.

Understanding Health Budget

The aim of the workshop was to make the participants aware of the terms associated with the budget document, the method to interpret the budget and analyse it, the major trends that are visible in the Maharashtra health budget and the major shortfalls that are there in the health budget.

People Centred Advocacy

A Capacity Building Programme on People-Centred Advocacy was organised for NGOs in Odisha. Around 30 participants working on issues of Adivasi, Dalit, Third Gender, women, disaster mitigation, child labour, etc. from different parts of Odisha attended the capacity building programme.

Capacity Building Workshops - Maharashtra

a.

NCAS organised a two-day workshop on advocacy. The workshop was aimed at understanding the concept of advocacy. This workshop was held at NCAS office in Pune on 11th and 12th April 2015. The participants consisted of individual activists as well as members of NGOs from across the state of Maharashtra. The workshop was followed up by another workshop in June to discuss the progress and understand the concepts of Community Based learning (CLM) and Media advocacy.
Capacity Building Workshops - Maharashtra

b.

NCAS organised a day long introductory seminar on “What is Advocacy?” in Pune. In this workshop case stories and importance of Media advocacy were discussed along with concept of Advocacy. This workshop was held at NCAS office on 21st October 2015.

Workshop on Understanding Budget

A day-long workshop was organised on Understanding Budget a few days before the Union Budget 2016-17 was presented. More than 50 students from different colleges in Pune city participated in the workshop.

Advocacy for Right to Food & Nutrition Security

NCAS was invited to conduct a training workshop on advocacy for right to food and nutrition security. The participants were CSO representatives from India, Nepal, Myanmar and Cambodia.

Advocacy Capacity Building Workshop for CSOs

This workshop was held for advocacy capacity building for participants belonging to various civil society organisations in Uttar Pradesh.
1. Policy Analysis, Research and Publication

NCAS views research as paramount to all advocacy work. By regularly researching contentious issues in India and Global South, NCAS provides the needed publications and materials to educate future activists on issues related to human rights, public policy and governance.

Responding to the needs of Jan Swasthya Abhiyaan (People’s Health Campaign), NCAS undertook research on public provisioning of healthcare in the state of Maharashtra. The online information bank on Right to Education was created to provide critical information needed for strengthening advocacy efforts of the groups and networks working for universalisation of education.

Public Provisioning of Healthcare in Maharashtra

NCAS prepared an analytical brief on the Maharashtra state budget for health, which was used by Jan Swasthya Abhiyan in Maharashtra for advocacy. A workshop was held for health rights activists in Maharashtra.

Public Spending on Social Sector in Maharashtra

NCAS collaborated with Jagnyachya Hakkacha Andolan (Campaign for Right to Live), a Maharashtra state network of CSOs and people’s movements, and analysed the Maharashtra State budget for the social sector. This analysis provided the much needed information base to the network for advocacy with the government.
Information Bank on Right to Education

NCAS developed an online information bank with an aspiration to provide subject information from all possible angles to education activists, academicians, policy experts, CSOs and general masses to claim effective delivery of education services and demand their right. Information was collected and classified on the following broad themes:

- RTE Act - pro and against arguments and debates
- Comparing the RTE Act in India and similar legislations in other countries
- RTE Act in India – comparison of rules framed in different states in India
- Litigations and Court Judgments, Commissions, their Reports and Recommendations

Advocacy Case Stories

Along with advocacy on various issues, it is important to do proper documentation of our efforts, experiences and outputs. Hence, along with our advocacy efforts we have also documented case stories on ‘Public Distribution System’ (PDS), ‘Integrated Child Development Scheme’ (ICDS), ‘Citizens’ Struggle for a Municipal School’ and ‘Social Audit of NREGA in Andhra Pradesh’.

NCAS Discussion Papers

NCAS Discussion Papers are published with an idea of generating public discourse on current issue/events/government schemes & policies relevant to social sector development. Following two papers were published in this year:

1. Smarter Urbanisation, Not (Just) Smart Cities

   *Amita Bhide and Himanshu Burte*

This paper discusses the concept and international, national context of the SMART cities. It also analyses the emerging ideas of SMART cities which includes selection of cities, benchmarks, the route to form the smart cities and confusion about projects that are to be started in smart cities. The paper reveals that there is lack of clear definition and of rational analysis, policy making etc. At the end it suggests the necessity of smart governance and smart urbanisation before smart cities.

2. Niti Aayog - A Strategic Need or an Ideological Shift?

   *Rashmi Kulkarni*

The contents of this paper reveal the fundamental difference between the planning commission and NITI Aayog. It also explains the scope of NITI Aayog in comparison of the planning commission, the administrative structure etc.

Social Audit of MGNREGA

The manual unfolds the step by step process of social audit of MGNREGA as a tool for inculcating democratic values among all stake holders.
NCAS produced a documentary Film on community based monitoring and planning of health services in Maharashtra, as a part of documenting transparency and accountability initiatives. The documentary is an attempt to present an audio-visual manual of the CBM process. It also showcases experiences of community leaders, state health officials, civil society activists and the common people in their tryst with CBM. This is a story of people for whom basic health services are a dream and some are not aware of their basic rights. This is also a story of triumph of the communities in justly claiming their health rights.
Public Discourse on Contemporary Policy Issues

As part of our efforts at generating public discourse, we organise National, Regional and State-level consultations on important issues and various aspects in advocacy studies from the lens of the underprivileged independently and in collaboration with government and non-government bodies and academic institutions. This year we brought together different voices from the civil society to discuss two important policy issues – one on the development and governance issues of Adivasis, and the other on the state of education.

Consultations on the Report of the High Level Committee chaired by Prof. Virginius Xaxa

The Government of India had constituted a High Level Committee (HLC) under the Chairmanship of Prof. Virginius Xaxa to prepare a position paper on the present socioeconomic, health and educational status of STs and suggest a way forward. The HLC was to suggest policy initiatives as well as effective outcome-oriented measures to improve development indicators and strengthen public service delivery to STs and other tribal populations. The HLC submitted its report to the Government in May 2014. The report has once again underlined the sorry state of affairs of development and governance issues of adivasis in the country.

Interestingly, the government has not acknowledged receipt of the report, leave aside accepting the recommendations! The National Consultation organised by NCAS and NFI was the first ever public consultation on the Report.

A National Consultation on the High Level Committee (Xaxa Committee) Report was organised in collaboration with National Foundation for India on 15th May 2015 at New Delhi. Prof Xaxa gave the keynote address and presented highlights of the report and recommendations made by the Committee to the Government of India. Many eminent scholars and activists shared their views on various issues plaguing development of Adivasis in the country.

Cont...
Consultations on the Report of the High Level Committee chaired by Prof. Virginius Xaxa

Cont...

This National Consultation was followed by a state level consultation in Odisha. NCAS collaborated with other CSOs in Odisha in organising this two-day consultation. Prof. Xaxa himself delivered the key-note address and Prof. Usha Ramanathan also shared her thoughts.

The consultation was attended by over 150 participants, many of whom are adivasi rights activists and from adivasi communities. The consultation led to creation of a platform for adivasi communities and organisations. As a follow up of the consultation, a number of initiatives have been taken by the adivasi groups in the state to take forward the decisions made in the consultation.

Round Table on Right to Education and Role of Civil Society

NCAS organised a round table discussion on “Right to Education: Role of Civil Society” on 17th December 2015 at New Delhi. This round table was organised to discuss important issues pertaining to right to education and identify spaces for and ways of civil society engagement. Around 30 civil society representatives from different states participated in the discussion. Prof. Janaki Rajan and Dr. John Kurrien presented key aspects of the Kothari Commission report and New Education Policy.
Re-strategising Policy Advocacy as a tool of Social Action - Seminars

The civil society activism with a rights based approach has been instrumental in bringing about important policy changes at the national level in the last two decades. However, the context of Advocacy has changed significantly over the past few years. Policy advocacy appears difficult in these changed circumstances. The technological revolution has changed modes of communication, and has eventually changed nature of mobilisation and advocacy. There is an urgent need to review and re-articulate the role and relevance of the civil society and policy advocacy.

NCAS brought together various civil society actors on a common platform to initiate a dialogue on the present and future of people-centred advocacy. The two discussions held at Pune and Bhubaneswar (4th May 2015) focused on some of the key challenges and impediments that underlie Policy Advocacy in the new socio-political context and the way in which the civil society can work around these issues.

Organised at NCAS office, Pune (21 July 2015) around 20 persons representing various CSOs participated in the seminar.
Advocacy for Child Rights

NCAS organised a day-long state level consultation on Advocacy for Child Rights Advocacy on 12th of December 2015 at Raipur, Chhattisgarh. Around 60 participants representing government of Chhattisgarh, media and civil society organisations joined the consultation. The basic objective of this consultation was to discuss possible advocacy agenda for child rights issues in the state and associated institutions of governance.

NCAS Policy Dialogues

NCAS Policy Dialogues are intended to initiate interaction with young activists and students on contemporary socio-political issues and public policies. The first NCAS Policy Dialogue was held on the much discussed formulation of the New Education Policy.

New Education Policy
(18 January 2016)

35 students of Abeda Inamdar College engaged in this policy dialogue.
Networking and Campaign Support

NCAS plays a critical role in coordinating, networking and supporting campaigns that work collectively with activist groups and people’s movements, especially those within marginalised groups.

Continuing with this legacy, this year, NCAS supported people’s campaigns for various rights. Along with the emerging campaigns around new issues such as the New Education Policy, budget allocations for social sector services like health, has also been a part of NCAS's sphere of networks. We worked extensively on Bills and laws which adversely impacted the tribal population in Odisha.

NCAS provided campaign support and follow up with the Chief Minister office of Odisha against brutal attack of 10 year old child, son of a RTI activist by a group of miscreants on the midnight of 10th May 2016 of Kendrapara district and request for amendment of RTI rule to protect identity of whistle blowers. The Chief Minister’s Office responded to the letter and arrested the miscreants.

NCAS was invited as a member in the Steering Committee of the NGO coalition for the 'Optional Protocol on International Covenant of Economic Social Cultural Rights’ (OP-ICESCR), to advance the Campaign for the Ratification of the Optional Protocol to the ICESR.
## Balance Sheet as at 31st March, 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Accounts and Financial Statements</th>
<th>Rs.</th>
<th>Ps</th>
<th>Rs.</th>
<th>Ps</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Funds and Liabilities</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Trusts Funds or Corpus</td>
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<td>Balance as per last Balance Sheet</td>
<td>201,357.00</td>
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<td>Adjustment during the year (give details)</td>
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<td>(Please refer Schedule - 1)</td>
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<td>Other Earmarked Funds -</td>
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<td>(Created under the Provisions of the Trust Deed or Scheme or out of the income)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Depreciation Fund</td>
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<td>Sinking Fund</td>
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<td>Reserved Fund</td>
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<tr>
<td>Any Other Fund :</td>
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<td>Educational Programme Fund</td>
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<td>(Please refer Schedule - 2)</td>
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<td>From Trustees</td>
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<tr>
<td>From Others:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Liabilities</td>
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<td>For Expenses</td>
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<td>For Advances</td>
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<td>For Rent and Other Deposits</td>
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<tr>
<td>For Sundry Credit Balances</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Please refer Schedule - 3)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Income &amp; Expenditure Account</td>
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<td>Balance as per last Balance sheet</td>
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<td>Less : Appropriation, if any</td>
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<td>Less:- (Deficit) (As per Income &amp; Expenditure Account)</td>
<td>1,015,927.87</td>
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<td>Total</td>
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<td>13,248,941.58</td>
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<td>Total</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>13,248,941.58</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The above Balance Sheet to the best of my / our belief contains a true account of the Funds and Liabilities and of the Property and Assets of the

Amit Narkar
(Executive Director)

Jagannananda
(Secretary)

Keerti
(Treasurer)

(S. B. SABNE)
Chartered Accountant

Dated at: PUNE
23rd September, 2016
### Accounts and Financial Statements

**THE BOMBAY PUBLIC TRUSTS ACT, 1950**  
**SCHEDULE IX [Vide Rule 17(1)]**  

**Trust Registration No - F-20064**  
**Name of the Public Trust: NATIONAL CENTRE FOR ADVOCACY STUDIES**  
Serenity Complex, Ramnagar Colony, Pashan, Pune 411021  
Income and Expenditure Account for the year ending 31st March, 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EXPENDITURE</th>
<th>Rs.</th>
<th>Rs.</th>
<th>INCOME</th>
<th>Rs.</th>
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<td>Opening Stock</td>
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<td>To Expenditure in respect of properties:</td>
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<td>By Rent (accrued)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rates, Taxes, Cesses</td>
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<td>By Interest (accrued)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Repairs and Maintenance</td>
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<td>On securities</td>
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<td>Salaries</td>
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<td></td>
<td>On Loans</td>
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<tr>
<td>Insurance</td>
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<td>On Bank Account</td>
<td>873,817.88</td>
<td>873,817.88</td>
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<td>Depreciation (by way of provisions or adjustments)</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Please refer Schedule - B)</td>
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<td>To Establishment Expenses</td>
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<td>To Remuneration to Trustees</td>
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<td>To Remuneration (in the case of a matn) to the head of the matn including his household expenditure, if any</td>
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<td>By Donations in Cash or Kind</td>
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<td>To Legal Expenses</td>
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<td>By Grants</td>
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<td>To Audit Fees</td>
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<td>By Income from Other Sources</td>
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<td>To Contribution and Fees</td>
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<td>Consultancy Fees</td>
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<td>To Amount written off</td>
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<td>a) Bad Debts</td>
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<td>Sundry Income</td>
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<tr>
<td>b) Loans Scholarships</td>
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<tr>
<td>c) Irrecoverable Rent</td>
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<tr>
<td>d) Other Items: Formation expenses</td>
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<tr>
<td>e) Income Tax written off</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>To Miscellaneous Expenses</td>
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<td>To Gratuity</td>
<td>12,360.00</td>
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<td>To Depreciation</td>
<td>171,319.29</td>
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<tr>
<td>To Amounts transferred to Reserves or Specific Funds Interest on Investments</td>
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<tr>
<td>To Expenditure on objects of the Trust</td>
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<td>By Transfers from Reserves</td>
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<tr>
<td>a) Religious</td>
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<tr>
<td>b) Educational</td>
<td>2,202,142.09</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>c) Medical Relief</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>By Deficit carried over to Balance Sheet</td>
<td>1,015,927.87</td>
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<tr>
<td>d) Relief of Poverty</td>
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<tr>
<td>e) Other Charitable Objects</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>5,165,492.61</td>
<td>Total</td>
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</table>

**Accounts and Financial Statements**

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As per my report of even date:

Amit Nevar
[Executive Director]
Dated at: PUNE
23rd September, 2016

Jagannath
[Secretary]

Keertika
[Treasurer]

S. B. Sabne
Chartered Accountant
Dated at: PUNE
23rd September, 2016
**NCAS Team**

Aishwarya Laxman
Akshita Maithani
Amit Narkar
Bharati
Lingangouda Patil
Manik Golangde
Moreshwar Ghotkar
Ramya Nair
Sandeep Pattnaik
Shilpa Kulkarni
Venkat Balsure

**We Acknowledge the Generous Support of...**

Action Aid India
American Jewish World Service
National Foundation for India
Christian Aid
OXFAM India
Welthungerhilfe
UNICEF
Serenity Complex, Ramnagar Colony, Pashan, Pune - 411021

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Fax: +91 2295 2004
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Website: www.ncasindia.org

Twitter: @ncasindia
Facebook: www.facebook.com/ncasindia