

THE WARM TOUCH OF SANKRANTI

A Sacred Festival of Service, Dedication, and Gratitude



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Awake, Arise and Achieve



Dear Reader,

'Karyakartas' are the life-breath of any organisation, and the Karyakartas of Ekal Abhiyan, like the devoted servants of Lord Ram's army, are awakening the sentiments of education, values, self-reliance, brotherhood and more among the rural tribal communities. Paying homage to the indomitable spirit and zest for life of such god-like Karyakartas, the women's wings of the associate organisations of Ekal Abhiyan, once a year on the occasion of the 'Sankranti' festival, reach out to them through affectionate contact and present them with gifts as a sacred celebration of their service, dedication and gratitude. These gifts symbolise that Ekal Abhiyan stands with its Karyakartas with a deep sense of affection and belonging.

The three-day Ekal Shrihari National Committee Coordination Annual Meeting witnessed deliberations on the journey of the organisation, its form and its future plans, which will undoubtedly bear positive results in its progress.

The significance of yoga was highlighted on International Yoga Day by stringing the entire world together in one thread. To mark this occasion, Ekal Abhiyan also organised online yoga training programmes for one month through its chapters in India and several countries across the world, ensuring the enthusiastic participation of crores of citizens.

In his inspiring article, Dr. Subra Dravida, National President of Ekal Vidyalaya Foundation, USA, emphasizes the importance of nurturing in young minds a spirit of selfless service, strong cultural values, and a future that progresses hand in hand with the nation's aspirations. Intellectual initiatives such as Abhigya 3.0 and Know Ekal have made a significant impact by fostering meaningful dialogue and establishing Ekal's presence in the intellectual sphere. Likewise, the Van Yatras have infused renewed enthusiasm into Ekal schools and villages, while strengthening the bonds between urban society and rural communities.

The Mission-driven life of Smt. Prachi Garg has been a witness to the journey of values she has imbibed from the organisation. Prachi, who was nurtured in the values of the Sangh, became one with Ekal before she even realised it. A skilled organiser, filled with maternal affection, nurturing a strong link with the village organisation, Prachi's life is exemplary. I have witnessed Prachi's journey and can say that she is one of those rare souls who considers the organisation itself as her family.

Besides this, various other events, programmes and activities have also kept Ekal Abhiyan continuously vibrant. The rest, we shall meet again in the next issue.

Yours

Manju Didi

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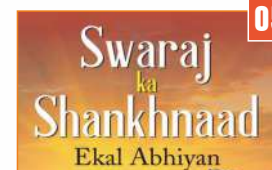
CONTENTS



COVER STORY

The warm touch of Sankranti Manju Srivastava

- | | |
|------------------------------|----|
| 1. Ekal Yuva Udaan, USA | 09 |
| 2. National Youth Conference | 26 |
| 3. Standing Tall | 34 |
| 4. Vanvasi Shourya Gatha | 36 |



Ekal's Historic Journey (Excerpts from Swaraj Ka Shanknaad)



International Yoga Day Sanjay Malviya



Tribal Society Prof Niranjana Kumar



Ekal Canada... Nishi Agarwal

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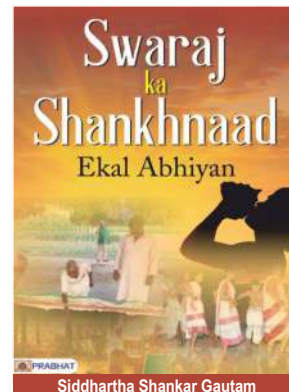


Continued...

The Ekal Abhiyan regards self-dependence as the foundation of self-respect and social empowerment. Through Shreehari Katha, satsang gatherings, village development initiatives, and disciplined volunteer work, Ekal seeks to create a sustainable model of education and social transformation.

Every katha and satsang includes an aarti collection, while special family

devotee prays to God for the strength to return to society more than what he has received from it. Ekal expects its volunteers to work with the same sense of gratitude and dedication. Volunteers receive only limited support for travel and food, yet they strive to return manifold contributions for the organisation. According to Shyam ji, a true full-time volunteer is one who contributes more than his own expenses. However, volunteers are not



Siddhartha Shankar Gautam

healthcare, and village development, families are motivated to donate modest sums regularly. Donation boxes placed in homes become a practical means of sustaining the movement.



Self-Dependence in Shreehari Katha Model

rituals and community programmes contribute funds for the organisation's activities. Full-time Ekal volunteers play a vital role in this mission. They are encouraged to approach urban families, explain the objectives of Ekal, present its activities, and inspire people to support the movement. The organisation believes that a volunteer develops true self-respect only when he contributes towards the self-reliance of the mission.

An inspiring idea from the Upanishads reflects this spirit. A

permitted to handle funds directly. Their role is to motivate local committees and strengthen community participation.

Ekal committees should be self-dependant - Ekal believes that self-dependence should not remain limited to volunteers alone; every committee and household must share this responsibility. Volunteers are encouraged to contact every family, including women and children, and inspire them to contribute regularly. Since Ekal spends only a small amount daily on each child through education,

The Kathakaar Yojana, or preaching programme, was designed as a comprehensive model of self-reliance. It includes organising rituals for family and village welfare, satsang gatherings, devotional storytelling, and support for the preacher's family. Weekly satsangs are conducted in selected homes, while trained kathakaars organise Bhagwat Kathas and festivals to inspire villagers spiritually and socially. Offerings collected during these programmes contribute directly to Ekal's self-dependence fund.

Ekal also promotes the concept of a "Bhagwat Parivaar," through which one family connects neighbouring households for spiritual and social activities. Kathakars are adopted by families as their own children and invited periodically to conduct Bhagwat Kathas. Through these efforts, each preacher can help generate significant annual support for the mission. Each kathakar collects around Rs 20,000-25,000 in a year. Each kathakar is connected to almost 20 satsangs.





Special emphasis is placed on selecting kathakars rooted in village and forest life. Ekal believes that those who have lived among tribal and rural communities can narrate the stories of Lord Ram and Lord Krishna with greater authenticity and emotional connection. Such grounded and hardworking kathakars are considered more suitable for serving in remote villages than highly celebrated urban religious figures. Some of these kathakars are trained in an advanced course and sent to perform in metro cities like Delhi, Kolkata, Mumbai etc.

The movement also highlights the deep cultural strength of Indian society. An emotional example is cited of an elderly grandmother willingly encouraging her grandson to dedicate his life to Ekal and the service of society. Such sacrifices, according to Ekal, reflect the enduring spiritual strength of the nation.

Village development schemes have emerged as another major pillar of self-dependence. Ekal promotes bio-fertiliser production using cow dung, cow urine, and earthworms. Full-time workers, teachers, and villagers are trained in these practices so they can generate additional income. A portion of this income contributes to village development funds. Ekal believes that such economic activities can make village schools and dispensaries self-sufficient while also strengthening agriculture and rural livelihoods.

Ekal strongly connects self-dependence with self-respect. A village school supported entirely by outside donations cannot fully awaken confidence among villagers. Therefore, Ekal encourages parents and villagers to take responsibility for sustaining their own schools. The organisation seeks to transform the perception of a school

from a mere educational institution into a centre for village development and social awakening.

The Ekal school model is unique because it combines children's education with community education. Besides basic literacy, villagers receive guidance on health, development, awareness, and moral values. Weekly satsangs and village assemblies are organised for this purpose. Village committees include dedicated individuals responsible for health, agriculture, awareness, and social coordination. Teachers and volunteers receive special training to guide these activities. It is imperative to understand that these schools are provided with the three types of study material – compulsory, extra and local material. School material includes – nameplate, blackboard, picture of goddess Saraswati and alphabet charts. Teachers' material comprises of teacher's diary, prospectus,

attendance register and material for extracurricular activities. Students get – slate, copy, language and maths books.

To strengthen accountability, the "Gram Swabhimani Dayitva" initiative was introduced in Gujarat. Under this scheme, each full-time worker supervises five village schools and spends regular time in those villages. These volunteers conduct meetings, support teachers, ensure the functioning of village committees, organise satsangs, and motivate villagers to contribute financially towards the school's self-reliance.

Ekal maintains strict financial discipline. Full-time volunteers are prohibited from handling money directly. Financial transactions are conducted only through authorised committees and bank accounts. Institutional and joint accounts are maintained at different organisational levels to ensure transparency and accountability. ■

(To be Continued...)





Indian cultural consciousness encompasses not only the individual (Vyashti) and the collective (Samashti), but also the entire creation (Srishti) and the Supreme Being (Parameshthi) together. This philosophical sentiment is also strongly present among the tribal communities. Unfortunately, tribal society and culture were isolated and kept apart as a museum exhibit from the era of British colonial rule and even after Independence. In this context, the 'Tribal Cultural Confluence' organised at the Red Fort on May 24, 2026, has created history. For the first time in

impelled them to come from distant regions, out of forests and mountains to arrive in Delhi. This event was not limited merely to a celebration of tribal culture; rather, it should be viewed as an important initiative towards the remembrance and restoration of India's original cultural consciousness, knowledge tradition and civilisational identity.

In Indian civilisation, forest-dwelling or tribal communities have never been separated or peripheral; they have been integral participants in India's cultural journey. This relationship is clearly visible even in epics such as the Ramayana and the

tasted berries offered by Shabari, or Lord Shiva assuming the form of a Kirata in the Mahabharata, are symbols of our cultural unity.

The Vedic literature states, "Mata Bhumi Putroham Prithivyah," meaning, "The Earth is my mother, and I am the son of the Earth." It is noteworthy that Lord Birsa Munda is known as 'Dharti Aaba'. This affection for the Earth is a cultural tradition in India, whether among tribal or non-tribal communities. Similarly, while worshipping various local deities, different tribal communities have also remained connected with the traditions of Shiva, Durga, Hanuman and village deities. It is not without reason that the renowned anthropologist G. S. Ghurye, in his book *The Scheduled Tribe* (1943), referred to 'tribals as backward Hindus'.

The British rulers in India understood at the very outset that if this cultural unity and relationship remained strong, political control would be threatened. Therefore, they divided Indian society into different compartments. The conspiracy behind presenting tribal communities as a separate racial and cultural entity, distinct from the 'mainstream Indian society', was precisely this. British



TRIBAL SOCIETY

CONCERNED FOR ITS IDENTITY, HERITAGE, AND DEVELOPMENT

Indian history, representatives of more than 500 tribes from the country's over 120 million tribal population came together in such large numbers at Delhi's Red Fort, taking a pledge to protect their faith, culture and traditions, and making their strong presence felt. It was a glimpse of that vast cultural tradition, about whose existence the tribal community is concerned, which

Mahabharata. An important period of Lord Rama's life was spent in the forest, where Nishadraj Guha, Mata Shabari and the Vanara community became his trusted companions. Hidimba, the mother of Bhimasena's son, the great warrior Ghatotkacha, was a tribal woman. Arjuna also married Ulupi and Chitrangada, the tribal princesses of the Northeast. Rama accepting the

officials and European ethnographers began dividing Indian communities into rigid categories such as tribe, caste, Hindu, animist and others. The natural cultural unity of "You and I, of one blood" was transformed into artificial, divisive categories. While this division weakened Indian culture, it effectively served their objective of conversion to Christianity.





Unfortunately, even after Independence, for a long time a large section of the country's political power and intellectual class remained influenced by the colonial perspective. Universities, academic discourse and politics were no exception. Tribal society continues to struggle with various basic problems even today. But the greatest crisis before it today is the protection of its faith, culture and existence. Under the pretext of service, Christian missionaries attempted to convert innocent tribal people and destroy their culture and civilisation. Unfortunately, this effort continues even today. In view of the historical needs of tribal society, the Constitution contains special provisions for tribals. However, the larger tribal society connected with its culture and traditions remains deprived of these provisions. On the other hand, those who have adopted Christianity and abandoned tribal traditions are today enjoying the dual benefits of being Christian as well as tribal. According to a study, 90% of high-ranking government jobs have been occupied by 10% of converted Christians. The anger of tribal society against this is clearly visible in the movements of the 'Janajati Suraksha Manch' over the past few years. Denying all benefits, including reservation, to tribal individuals who avail themselves of dual benefits appears to be the principal solution to this problem.

Another dangerous issue is that of bogus tribals. Millions of non-tribal people have created a major conspiracy to usurp the jobs of tribals by obtaining false certificates claiming to be tribal. Not only this, today many communities across the country are

demanding to be declared tribal merely to obtain reservation.

The tribal regions have also not remained untouched by the problem of 'Love Jihad'. Numerous incidents are coming to light in which innocent tribal girls are lured into relationships and made victims of Love Jihad. There is also intense anger among tribals regarding 'Land Jihad'. Media reports have emerged about several serious cases involving Bangladeshi Muslim infiltrators marrying tribal girls and usurping their land, placing them in important positions such as that of sarpanch and themselves exercising power, and establishing economic dominance in tribal villages. All this has brought about a demographic change and given rise to serious demographic imbalance.

Recently, the Central Government announced that India would be made Naxal-free. If anyone has directly suffered the crisis of Naxalism, it is the tribal community. For nearly 50 years, innocent tribal brothers living in forests and mountains were almost held hostage by Left-inspired Naxalites. Thousands of tribals have had to sacrifice their lives because of their terror. Trapped for ages in the deadly captivity of the guns of Naxalites and the police, tribal society is today breathing a sigh of relief, but because of Naxalism, large parts of tribal regions had to remain deprived of development for decades.

Whether they are Christian missionaries, Islamic organisations, Leftist ideologues, so-called intellectuals or international institutions supporting all these forces—the objective of all of them is

the same: to separate tribal society from the mainstream of this country. Whether it is confusing innocent tribals and demanding separate states for them or declaring tribals to be 'indigenous inhabitants' and all other non-tribals to be outsiders, or spreading confusion through symbols such as Ravana, Mahishasura and Shurpanakha—efforts to once again hold tribals hostage through all these means continue unabated.

Undoubtedly, after the Narendra Modi Government came to power in 2014, relatively positive changes have been visible at both the governmental and societal levels regarding tribal issues. The beginning of Tribal Pride Day, the recognition of tribal freedom fighters in national history, the establishment of museums, the expansion of Eklavya Model Residential Schools and the honour accorded to tribal art and culture on national platforms are indications of this. The appointment of Smt. Droupadi Murmu as President is also a symbol of the honour and participation of tribal society. All this has made the fundamentally peaceful, simple and restrained tribal society relatively more vocal today, as it is deeply disturbed by attacks on its fundamental cultural beliefs. That is why, concerned about its existence, identity and development, this society has come before the nation today to make an appeal. Will we still not stand with our tribal brothers and sisters? ■

Prof. Niranjana Kumar

Dean (Planning) and Senior Professor,
Department of Hindi, University of Delhi





A TEACHER WHO BECAME A FATHER TO MANY



My grandfather was a teacher deeply respected in his community. Children from surrounding villages

stayed in his home so they could attend school and receive a proper education. He welcomed them as members of his own family, guiding them not only in academics but also in character and values.

Many of these children went on to become engineers, doctors, teachers, and successful professionals. Even after establishing their careers, they continued to regard him as a mentor and parent figure.

EDITOR'S NOTE

In this deeply reflective essay, Dr. Subra Dravida traces the roots of his Ekal journey to the formative values of his childhood—values that naturally blossomed into a lifelong commitment to sewa. He then chronicles the birth of Ekal Udaan, a visionary initiative conceived with fellow Ekal USA leaders to inspire the next generation through knowledge, sewa, leadership, and the timeless ideals of dharma. His words resonate with quiet conviction, revealing how a shared vision, sustained by dedication and selfless effort, is transforming lives and shaping tomorrow's leaders.

grandfather's influence serving as background, investing in rural education in India felt very natural and necessary. When I learned about Ekal Vidyalaya, I was immediately drawn to its mission. I began as a donor, then a volunteer, and ultimately a sevak.

Along the way, I was blessed with mentors such as Sri Subhash Gupta and Sri Ramesh Shah. More recently, I

organized events in the U.S. and served in Ekal villages through teacher training and health-hygiene awareness programmes.

FUND-RAISING, SEWA AND CULTURAL EXPRESSION

Each Ekal chapter in the U.S. will have its own Youth Chapter, guided by the National Council. These chapters will perform fund-raising and Sewa in

EKAL YUVA UDAAN

BLAZING THE TRAIL OF EDUCATION, DHARMA, AND YOUTH LEADERSHIP

One of the most touching moments came when a former student asked my grandparents to officiate as his parents at his wedding. My grandfather's influence transcended the classroom; he helped shape lives, families, and futures.

His legacy stands as an example of guru-sevā, compassion, and ācārya-dharma—the sacred duty of a teacher.

A PERSONAL JOURNEY TOWARD SEWA

By a stroke of fortune, I studied Electrical Engineering at IIT Madras and eventually entered the world of smartphone chip design. With my

have had the privilege of working with our Chairman, Sri Mahesh Navani, a visionary leader who is poised to take Ekal Vidyalaya to new heights in empowering tribal and rural communities.

EKAL YUVA UDAAN

Building the Next Generation of Leaders; In an earlier Ekal Prayas article, Sri Mahesh Navani outlined his vision for cultivating a new generation of youth leaders. This initiative Ekal Yuva Udaan is now moving from vision to implementation.

We are forming a National Youth Council composed of experienced Ekal youth leaders who have

their communities in the following ways.

- Organize cultural and fundraising events
 - Ekal Youth have in the past conducted their own music and dance competitions.
 - During our festivals such as Diwali and Dussehra, they will perform festival themed performing arts programmes
- Lead seva activities such as tutoring underprivileged children
 - Providing books and educational materials
 - Serving in food banks and shelters





YOUTH CULTURAL EXCHANGE

In 2025, we piloted a successful Youth Cultural Exchange Programme with Ekal India. Seven youth leaders traveled to Songarh and Chhindwara, teaching painting, basketball, and technology to village children. In return, they learned local music, dance, and customs from the local children. This year, the programme is expanding to fourteen participants and 3 locations. The 14 children from US will work together with 14 children from India in this cultural exchange programme.

THE DHARMA EDUCATION INITIATIVE

A Transformative Pillar: Among all the pillars of Ekal Yuva Udaan, Dharma Education is the most challenging—and the most essential. Dharma is a set of universal principles that help us live in harmony with society and nature while realizing our highest potential. It includes values such as Truth, Ahimsa (non-violence), Dama (self-control), Daana (generosity), and Shraddha (faith). While rituals support mental purification, Dharma transcends rituals. For Dharma to be assimilated, it must be relevant to everyday life.

A strong grounding in Dharma should help students:

- Interpret past events with clarity
- Make wise decisions for the future
- Develop focus and concentration
- Be action oriented
- Build resilience in the face of adversity
- Develop confidence and conviction to defend and promote Dharma when challenged.

Dharmic principles must be discussed, debated, and internalized.

Practical Skills for developing Inner Strength in daily living

Alongside Dharmic concepts, students will learn:



- Meditation
- Prāṇāyāma
- Yoga

Pilot Programmes in Boston

We are developing a Dharma curriculum and will pilot it at multiple sites in the Boston area starting in September. These pilots will guide us as we scale the programme to other chapters across the country.

A Vision Rooted in Service

From the humble homes of teachers who guided generations of students to the expansive mission of Ekal Vidyalaya today, the thread of Sewa continues unbroken.

Ekal Yuva Udaan is our opportunity to carry that legacy forward to empower youth, strengthen communities, and build a future grounded in knowledge, character, and Dharma. These Youth leaders will then constitute the next generations of leadership for organizations such as Ekal and will carry Dharma and Sewa forward and raise rural Bharat to great heights.

Call to Action - Join the Ekal Yuva Udaan Movement

Ekal Yuva Udaan is more than a youth initiative — it is a movement to inspire the next generation through Education, Sewa, Leadership, and Dharma.

WE INVITE

- Youth to participate in leadership, cultural exchange, and seva activities
- Parents to encourage and support youth involvement
- Volunteers and mentors to guide the next generation
- Donors to help expand these transformative programs across communities

Together, we can nurture compassionate leaders rooted in character, service, and cultural values. ■

Dr. Subra Dravida
President, EVF USA



THE WARM TOUCH OF SANKRANTI

A Sacred Festival of Service, Dedication, and Gratitude

Background: In the year 1989, the first chapter of the 'Ekal Abhiyan', 'Vanbandhu Parishad', was formally inaugurated in Kolkata on January 15, the day of Makar Sankranti, with a Yajana and Puja ceremony. I (Manju Srivastava) was fortunate to be entrusted with the responsibility of serving as the first Organising Secretary of the Parishad.



A natural question arose in my mind- why not have a women's committee alongside the chapter, which could meet at a time convenient to them, participate in the overall deliberations, and give an important place to the participation of women's power? After consultations with the senior brothers of the chapter and Respected Shri Shyam ji, the first Women's Committee of 'Vanbandhu Parishad' was formed in Kolkata in 1992 with just five sisters.

Gradually, an organisation of five grew to twenty-five sisters. At every meeting, the same question would arise: "We sisters cannot go to the villages, so how can we serve?" Programmes and projects were

needed to keep the organisation active and strong. As a result, programmes such as the 'Sevapatra Scheme' and the 'Exhibition Scheme' were initiated. In the same sequence, the tradition of giving donations during Sankranti was given a new direction, a new perspective and a new purpose in 1994. Leaflets were prepared for door-to-door contact, addressing the women of society.

Expansion and Process of Service: While explaining the importance of donations, the message was conveyed that, "In the present context, those who are imparting education to the deprived sections of society in village after village and those who are working under difficult circumstances for the protection of the

nation and Dharma are the true Brahmins." Therefore, donations should be given not only to one's local Brahmins but also to the Acharyas and Sevavratīs of 'Ekal'.

Initially, the sisters faced difficulty in convincing the elders of their families, but problems do arise in divine work, and ultimately, a challenge itself becomes an opportunity. From 1994 until today, "Sankranti Upahar" has become the biggest festival of the sisters. As the area of the Abhiyan continued to expand uninterruptedly, the participation of the sisters also continued to increase.

Now, every year, immediately after Diwali, the sisters begin





Acharya facilitation ceremony held in Bahraich Anchal

contacting people for 'Sankranti Upahar'. By October-November, after consultations with senior Karyakartas, the items for the gifts are decided and the budget is determined. Orders are placed, and in December-January, the gifts are duly packed and transported to the centres of the Sevavratins. The gifts mainly include clothing, warm clothes, suitcases, backpacks, bottles, durries, bedsheets, umbrellas, household items, utensils and other such articles.

Unwavering Resolve in the Face of Challenges: This collection is

made both in the form of funds and materials. There is such enthusiasm among the sisters that even during the "Covid" crisis, when everything had come to a standstill, the sisters thoughtfully collected funds, and "gift amounts" were sent to the accounts of all the Sevavratins and Acharyas.

A small beginning has today grown into a very large "Sankranti Upahar" campaign, which became the foundation of the 'Large and Strong Mahila Sangathan'. Along with the sisters of the urban organisation, the sisters of the rural organisation also expanded across the country. From a collection of a few lakhs, the sisters today themselves collect crores through their own efforts. The sisters of the rural organisation maintain excellent coordination with the sisters of the urban organisation. The sisters of the rural organisation are themselves capable of carrying out the work of 'gift distribution' and 'Karyakarta honour'.

Achievements and Conclusion:

In the complete details that follow, you will read how, through a beautiful system, each urban organisation Vanbandhu Parishad, Bharat Lok Shiksha Parishad and Ekal Vidyalaya Foundation together with the extensive rural women's organisation spread across every Sambhag, Bhag, Anchal and Sanch, jointly accomplishes the "Ekal Maha Sankranti Upahar" programme.

The gifts are distributed equally among the Karyakartas of all departments. From 1994 to the present day, 2026, the record established by the sisters reflects their dedication, efficiency and patience. It demonstrates their remarkable ability to fulfil their resolve even under the most difficult circumstances. ■

Manju Srivastava
Chairperson, Ekal Sansthan

Makar Sankranti: A Bridge of Affection



The journey of Vanbandhu Parishad began in 1989 with the sacred resolve of nation-building through village education. This work, which began on the foundation of 'Panchmukhi Shiksha', stands before us today in the form of the vast banyan tree of the 'Ekal Abhiyan'. Vanbandhu Parishad has remained the foundation stone and the mother unit of this campaign.

Emotional Bond and the Role of Women's Power: In the initial period, when the focus in the cities was on fund collection, the role of women

appeared limited. However, when mothers and sisters met the families of the Karyakartas through 'Gram Darshan', their inner 'motherhood' awakened. They saw that, even amidst deprivation, these Karyakartas were fully dedicated to nation-building. For the prosperous sisters of the cities, this sight was deeply touching. This feeling of respect towards the Karyakartas gradually transformed into family relationships.

Sankranti: From Donation to Honour: In Indian tradition, Makar Sankranti is the great festival of donation. The Women's Committee

gave this tradition a new and relevant meaning. The full-time Karyakartas who are dedicating their lives to the nation, Dharma and education are the best charity (Daan) of the present age. Therefore, instead of 'donation', the concept of honouring them through 'gifts' was born.

Organisational Expansion and Strengthening: Since 2011, this work has gained unprecedented momentum. Now, not only the Karyakartas but also the Acharyas who are laying the foundation of the nation have been associated with this honour ceremony. The mothers of





affluent families, for whom extending a hand before anyone had once been against their self-respect, made going from house to house to 'collect' for the cause of nation-building their mission.

Expansion of Service: At a Glance (Present Status)

To achieve this vast objective, 36 Women's Committees and 14 Associate Committees across the country remain wholeheartedly engaged for approximately 3-4 months. The table given below reflects the vast scale of this service activity:

Self-Reliance and Distribution System: It is a matter of great joy that this year most of the committees have collected funds with self-reliance.

Category	Number	Details
Ekal Vidyalayas (FTS)	45,035	Acharyas/Acharyas
Full-time Karyakartas	2,966	Working in the field
Arogya Sevikas	1,466	Under the Arogya Foundation
Estimated Expenditure/Target	2 crore	Per year for gift items
Active Women Members	3,500	Engaged in fund collection & distribution



Useful gifts such as clothes, blankets, mixer-grinders, fans and utensils are selected according to the needs of the Karyakartas, in consultation with senior Karyakartas. On this auspicious occasion of Sankranti, the sisters themselves travel to the Anchals and

This Makar Sankranti gift programme is not merely the distribution of materials, but a 'bridge of affection' between the city and the village. Even during the adverse circumstances of the Covid period, the sisters did not allow this tradition to break and transferred the funds directly into bank accounts. The saying that the ocean is filled drop by drop finds its true meaning here. This dimension not only destroys the ego but also gives one a realisation of the purposefulness of life.

Vinita Jaju

President, Vanbandhu Parishad
(Women's Committee)

Makar Sankranti: Honouring Acharyas and Sevavratis



"An Acharya is the foundation stone who prepares a student for national service with humanity and humaneness." Assimilating this motto, on the sacred occasion of

Makar Sankranti this year, the 'National Women's Department' of Bharat Lok Shiksha Parishad has written a new chapter of service and gratitude.

Honouring the 'Ram Sena' Engaged in the Work of Ram: Our Sevavrati Karyakartas of Ekal Abhiyan, who, emulating 'Ram's vanvaas or exile', remain engaged in nation-building work away from their homes for 25 days a month and often for months at a stretch, are the strong foundation of the organisation. Saluting their selfless service, this year 1,291 Sevavrati Karyakartas from Uttar Pradesh,

Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Bihar and Jammu were honoured with jackets as gifts.

In this sacred endeavour, 528 dedicated sisters from the Delhi (East, West, North and South), Kanpur and Lucknow Chapters extended active support. Organised through the collection of approximately 13 lakh, this programme was not merely the distribution of gifts, but a message of the organisation's affection and emotional bond with its Karyakartas.

A Resolve for 100% Success: Under the able guidance of respected Manju Didi, a historic target was set this year to honour the Acharyas of 25,230 Ekal Vidyalayas. At present, the process of delivering gifts to 22,665 serving Acharyas is progressing rapidly, with 80% of the work already completed.





A Statistical Glimpse (Distribution by Division)

Division	Main Areas	Sambhag	Anchal	Sanch	No. of Acharyas
P-6	Himachal and Jammu	03	43	287	8,280
P-5	Brijmandal, Uttarakhand and Western U.P.	03	25	263	6,472
P-4	Central, Eastern and Southern U.P.	03	16	178	4,913
P-3	North Bihar	01	11	100	3,000
Grand Total		10	95	828	22,665



Volunteers' felicitation ceremony organized by the BLSP women's section in the Braj Mandal Sambhag

In the difficult mountainous regions, this campaign will be completed by the month of February.

Key Highlights of Regional Activities

- **Lucknow Chapter:** A grand programme was held at Sanch-Mawai of Anchal Barabanki under the chairmanship of Mrs. Bindu Bora ji, where 30 sisters were honoured.
- **Kanpur Chapter:** Under the leadership of Mrs. Anuradha Varshney ji, programmes were conducted in five phases in the Kanpur and Hamirpur Anchals of

Bundelkhand. Here, more than 670 Acharyas were encouraged by presenting them with sarees and kurta-pyjamas.

- **Jammu Chapter:** Gifts were presented to Acharyas in the Udhampur Anchal of Bhag-Shri Mata Vaishno Devi.

Ekal Spirit: ('One for All'): This scheme has served as a 'bridge of love' between the urban organisation and the rural organisation. At the time of receiving the honour, the eyes of several Acharyas were moist—not because of the value of the gift, but because of the affection concealed behind it. The families of the Acharyas

have also experienced a sense of pride through this honour.

This festival of Makar Sankranti has become, for the Ekal family, not merely a festival, but a means of strengthening mutual trust and affection. The sustained efforts of the Women's Department will continue to inspire future generations towards service and values.

Sonal Rasivasia

National Chairperson,

National Women's Department, BLSP

Madhuri Agrawal

National Vice-President,

National Women's Department, BLSP

Makar Sankranti: A Festival of Oneness and Ekal's Touch of Affection



In the Indian calendar, festivals are not merely celebrations of a particular date; they are living symbols of community unity, cultural pride and gratitude towards nature. These festivals are inexhaustible sources of energy for the protection of Sanatan values—unity, love and Dharma. Among these radiant festivals is 'Makar Sankranti'. In the month of Paush, when Lord Surya leaves the zodiac sign of Sagittarius and





enters Capricorn, beginning the journey of Uttarayan, it is celebrated with devotion and enthusiasm across the entire country of India as well as in various regions of Nepal.

The Confluence of Spirituality and Ayurveda: The consumption of sesame and jaggery holds special significance on Sankranti. While sesame symbolises the brilliance and energy of Surya Dev, jaggery infuses sweetness and positivity into life. This combination not only promotes physical health but also awakens spiritual consciousness.

The Glory of Charity and Ekal's Resolve: The scriptures state that charity performed on Makar Sankranti yields merit equivalent to that of 10 Ashwamedha Yagyas and 1,000 acts of cow donation. The 'Ekal Vidyalaya Foundation of India' (EVFI) embraces this spiritual tradition with a 'family spirit'. Just as the head of a family presents gifts to all its members on a festival, in the same manner, 'Ekal' also honours its dedicated Karyakartas and Acharyas belonging to its vast family, thereby establishing the true significance of this festival.

Sevavarties and Acharya Sankranti Uphaar 2025-26					
Prabhag	Sambhag Area of Operation	Sevavarti Sankranti Uphaar	Anchal	Sanch	Acharya Sankranti Uphaar
Prabhag P-6	1. West Punjab 2. East Punjab 3. J&K	96 128 229	31	275	7,080
Prabhag P-5	1. Brajmandal 2. West Uttar Pradesh	83 41	8	77	1,970
Prabhag P-4	1. Central Uttar Pradesh 2. East Uttar Pradesh 3. South Uttar Pradesh	142 123 107	25	296	7,401
Prabhag P-3	1. South Bihar	180	11	112	2,540
Senior Seavavarties		54			
Total		1,159	75	760	19,000

Expansion of Service and Distribution Details (Year 2026): This year (2026), while continuing its tradition, the Ekal family extended its gifts of affection to the nation-builders working across various Sambhags and Anchals.

The Bridge of Affection: These jackets and blankets are not merely material objects, but a testament to the organisation's affection for our

Acharyas and Karyakartas who are leading the way from 'darkness to light' in the remote corners of the country. This effort of Ekal Abhiyan strengthens that bridge of affection between the city and the village, which will ultimately pave the way for the creation of a 'Param Vaibhavshali' India. ■

Anand Vadehra
General Secretary, Ekal Vidyalaya Foundation of India (EVFI)

Honouring Ekal Acharyas and Makar Sankranti Distribution





The sacred festival of Makar Sankranti is not merely a symbol of astronomical change; it is also a celebration that strengthens our commitment to service, dedication and values in our lives. On this auspicious occasion, a special 'Acharya Honour and Distribution Programme' was organised under the joint aegis of the Gram Sangathan and Nagar Sangathan of Ekal Abhiyan. This event was a means of expressing gratitude towards those dedicated Acharyas who are spreading the light of education in the lives of Vanvasi children living in the farthest reaches of society.

A Confluence of Service and Values

The Acharyas of Ekal Vidyalayas are contributing their share to the great Yajna of nation-building, even when their resources are extremely limited. Saluting their selfless contribution, they were warmly felicitated at the Sanch-level 'Monthly Practice Classes' by applying tilak and offering sweets. This distribution was not merely of material objects, but a symbol of society's unwavering reverence and trust in them.

Organisational Efforts and Fund Collection

For this sacred endeavour, various sections of society have contributed

according to their capacity. The framework for fund collection was highly systematic:

- **For FTS Acharyas:** By the FTS Women's Committee.
- **For BLSP Acharyas:** By the Sambhag, Bhag, Anchal, Sanch and Gram Women's Committees of the Gram Sangathan.
- **For EVFI Acharyas:** By the Delhi Women's Committee.
- **For EGS Vidyalayas:** By the Women's Committees of the various levels of the Gram Sangathan (from Sambhag to Gram).

Distribution and Materials

With the support of the committees, materials such as blankets, jackets, durries, kurta-pyjamas, shirts and trousers, sarees and bags were respectfully presented as gifts to Acharyas across the country according to their needs and local facilities. Wherever it was not convenient to deliver materials, honour amounts were sent through online means. This initiative has not only boosted the morale of the Acharyas but has also infused new energy and dynamism into the Sanch Committees.

Ekal Abhiyan: A Statistical Overview (India)

The expansion and present status of Ekal Abhiyan across the entire country can be understood through the following tables:

**Table 1:
Organisational Structure and
Expansion of Vidyalayas**

Level/Category	Number
Prabhag	10
Sambhag	36
Bhag	79
Anchal	399
Sanch	3,429
Total Ekal Vidyalayas	96,519

**Table 2:
Vidyalaya Operating Structure
(Category-wise)**

Operating Organisation	No. of Vidyalayas
FTS	46,319
EVFI	23,740
BLSP	25,230
EGS	1,230

**Table 3: Prabhag-wise
Details of EGS Vidyalayas
(Operated by Gram Sangathan)**

Prabhag	Number of Vidyalayas
P1	30
P2	240
P3	298
P4	133
P6	120
P7	199
P8	210
Total	1,230

The distribution of materials has been successfully completed across the entire country. It is our collective responsibility to continuously boost the morale of these service-oriented Acharyas so that the dream of a "Healthy, Educated and Cultured India" can be realised. ■

Sushma Chaudhary
President, Gram Sangathan
(Women's Committee)
Prachi Garg
Secretary, Gram Sangathan
(Women's Committee)



Ekal Srihari's Mission is Divine Work.

- Shyamji Gupta



Ekal Sri Hari National Coordination Committee Meeting Held in Delhi



“Who were included in the army of Sri Ram, the King of Ayodhya? They were all Vanvasis, who are living manifestations of God. They had accepted becoming a part of Sri Ram’s army in the Treta Yuga. Therefore, Ekal Abhiyan has resolved to serve and worship all these living manifestations of God (the Vanvasi community). This work of Ekal is entirely divine work.”

These were the words of the founder of Ekal, Ma Shyam Gupta, who was addressing the highly important meeting of the ‘Ekal Shrihari National Coordination Committee’ held on June 6–7, 2026, at Terapanth Bhawan in Delhi. Giving the example of the two sons of Mata Sita (Lava and Kusha), he said that despite having been raised in

the forest, they defeated the entire army of Ayodhya. This is the fundamental characteristic and strength of the Vanvasi community. Our goal has been to prepare ‘Ramji’s Army’ from the very first day, and for this we chose service as the medium. Now we must awaken ‘Ownership’ (a sense of ownership) in the villages so that the self-respect of rural society may awaken. Just as Sri Ram travelled from village to village, lovingly connected with the Vanvasi community and awakened their self-respect, Ekal Abhiyan must undertake the same work today. We must not merely put on a show but embrace the Vanvasi community and awaken a sense of self-pride within them. Satsang centres should be opened in every ward of the cities so that the Vanvasi community, which is moving away from rural life and

rushing towards the cities, remains connected with its roots. Our villages should become our places of pilgrimage, and the Vanvasis living in them should be our objects of worship; this should be our objective. Society has always saved the country, and this society is brave and organised.

During this two-day meeting, extensive deliberations were held on the future roadmap of the organisation, progress reports of various chapters, social harmony and upcoming goals. Prior to this, on June 5, 2026, a meeting of the Ekal Shrihari National Women’s Committee Coordination was held, in which details were presented of various activities being undertaken by women for the welfare of society.

The chief speaker, Ms. Vijaya Sharma, All India Taruni Chief, Rashtra Sevika Samiti, said in her address that it is our good fortune that we were all born in the land of Bharat, and being born as a woman is the fruit of merits accumulated over many births, because here a woman is regarded as a goddess. The forces behind the attacks being inflicted upon us are external forces. She also expressed her views about Panch Parivartan. Praising the work of Ekal Shrihari, Ms.





Seavarties introducing themselves at the Ekal Shrihari National Coordination Committee meeting

Vijaya Sharma described it as indispensable for the land of Bharat, especially for mothers and sisters.

Organisation and Ideological Awareness

The second session of the coordination meeting of the National Women's Committee began in a spiritual and energetic atmosphere. It was informed that a total of 14 women's chapters of Ekal Shrihari are active, of which 08 Women's Committees were present at this meeting. All the committees present shared the achievements of their respective chapters and elaborated upon their action plans for the coming year.

Smt. Manju Didi, Chairperson of Ekal Sansthan, emphasising the need for strengthening of the organisation, said that 'preparing oneself' is the seed phrase that gives strength to the organisation. When we ourselves are prepared, and our mothers and sisters are prepared, no one can prevent society from becoming prepared. Describing Ma Shyam Gupta's book Kranti Ram Ki as an important guide, she urged everyone to read it. She said that the country that progresses and becomes strong is the one that makes

its mark in the world. If our villages become strong, the country will automatically become strong.

Speaking about fund collection and future planning, Smt. Madhu Gupta informed that a total collection of 46,55,202 lakhs was made in 2025-26. Meanwhile, sharing the future plan, Ms. Seema Ajgaonkar stated that from next year, new families would relate to the organisation through the 'Sankranti Upahar Yojana'. She said that we organised Satsangs in village after village, through which the work of the organisation progressed automatically. We undertook the work of awakening in the Vanvasi regions through storytellers. Until now, we have undertaken the work of awakening Dharma; now we are undertaking the work of protecting Dharma.

Community Reach and Organisational Expansion

The third session began in the gracious presence of Sri Murari Lal Agrawal. Sri Rajesh Goyal, Sri Vijay Kedia, Smt. Meena Agrawal, Dr. Nirmala Pediawal and Dr. Lalan Sharma were seated on the dais during this session.

In his address, Sri Rajesh Goyal praised the Women's Committee and said that the Community Reach created by Ekal is unique. Such Empowerment and Leadership Role of sisters are not seen in any other organisation. We should always assess the impact of our work by observing its effect; only then will new people join us. Taking everyone along is the greatest quality of any organisation. Emphasising education, he said that higher education is needed today, but nation-building is possible only when it is good education accompanied by values.

Dr. Lalan Sharma said that we have all come out of our homes and engaged ourselves in thinking about the nation. Swami Vivekananda had placed special emphasis on education and giving up laziness. We are educated, but now we must give up laziness and engage ourselves more strongly in the interest of society. The definition of education is rooted in our traditional values, which brings about change within us. In accordance with the demands of the times, the organisation is continuously moving forward.

Explaining the concept of the Thought Revolution in detail, Sri





Rameshwar Dayal said that our fundamental idea is to create soldiers of Ramji's Army, and our Sevavratī Karyakartas are its true soldiers. Comfort leads us towards a slippery path, while struggle brings steadfastness to an individual. Through the Thought Revolution, daily messages and organisational mantras, among other things, are being continuously disseminated. During this session, sisters who had come from various states expressed their views, prominent among them being Smt. Lakshmi Agrawal (Surat), Smt. Kamayani Shreshtha (Delhi), Smt. Rekha Kakani (Indore) and Smt. Usha Goyal (Mumbai).

Thereafter, a 'Prashna Manjusha' session was organised, in which members of the Women's Committee asked several important questions related to Ekal and social life. This session was efficiently conducted by Ms. Sunila Bhatia.

A Glimpse of Organisational Achievements

- At the end of the session, Smt. Nirmala Padiawāl shared the progress reports of chapters across the country.
- The Delhi Chapter has done remarkable work and created 45 sub-chapters.
- A significant increase in the number of members has been recorded in Bengaluru.
- The Mumbai and Surat Chapters have undertaken major fund-collection efforts, and a Youth Committee has also been formed there.
- A new chapter has been established in Haldwani.
- The total collection for the year 2025–26 was 54,18,000.

"We Shall Build Lord Rama's Army"



Nandkishore Agarwal, Vineet Lohiya, Rajesh Goyal, Lakshmi Goyal, Bulakidas Mimani, Murarilal Agrawala, and Nirmala Padiwal

During a special intellectual session, Ma Shyam Gupt shed light on the historical journey and ideological foundations of Ekal Abhiyan. He recalled that the idea of Ekal first emerged in 1989, during the Birth Centenary Celebrations of Pujaniya Doctor Saheb, Dr. Keshav Baliram Hedgewar. He recounted that, at a meeting attended by Sri Dattopant Thengadi, a thought-provoking question was raised: "The Sangh has served the nation for so many years. What have we created that we can humbly dedicate at the feet of Doctor Saheb?" At that time, the growing challenge of large-scale religious conversions among India's tribal communities had become a matter of grave concern. After careful deliberation, it was unanimously resolved that education would be the only and the most effective means of preventing such conversions and preserving the cultural identity of the tribal society.

Ma Shyam Gupt further explained that, following the establishment of the

Ramamurti Commission, discussions on the challenges facing India's education system gathered momentum, giving rise to the concept of Joyful Education. At that crucial juncture, Ma Bhaurao Deoras took upon himself the mission of taking this innovative educational approach to the country's rural and tribal regions, leading to the birth of the Ekal Vidyalyaya movement.

He acknowledged the pioneering contribution of Dr. Rakesh Popli, who carried out extensive research on Joyful Education, and Sri Madan Lal Agrawala, Treasurer of Kalyan Ashram, who was entrusted with translating this vision into action. The first strategic meeting was held in Ranchi, where Sri Shankar Tiwari, Sri Rajabhau, Sri Shyam Gupt, and Sri Madan Babu came together to formulate the operational framework of the movement after extensive deliberations. It was during this very first meeting that a guiding resolution was unanimously adopted: "We shall build Lord Rama's Army."





Sharing the story behind the inception of the Srihari Katha Programme, Ma Shyam Gupt felicitated the Sevavratins and the Ekal Bharat Team for the outstanding success of the National Satsang Competition held in Ayodhya.

Ekal Shrihari National Coordination Committee Meeting

The first day's session of the meeting was efficiently conducted by Sri Vijay Kedia. The distinguished presence of the organisation's top leadership and eminent personalities graced the dais, prominent among them being Sri Rajesh Goyal, Sri Lakshmi Goyal, Sri Nandkishore Agrawal, Sri Vineet Lohia, Sri B.D. Mimani, Sri Murarilal Agrawal and Smt. Nirmala Padiawal.

At the beginning of the meeting, Sri Nandkishore Agrawal, President of the Delhi Shrihari Chapter, warmly welcomed all the visitors. In his welcome address, he said, "Considering the geographical and social circumstances of the entire country, Delhi holds the most important position. Through value-based education, Satsang and a strong organisation, 'Ekal Shrihari' is wholeheartedly engaged in service activities in every corner of the country."

On this occasion, the written proposal sent by Sri Mahesh Mittal was read before the house by Sri Vijay Kedia. Dr. Sadhana Modh shared the accounts of the previous year, and a review was conducted of the Bengaluru meeting held on June 21-22, 2025, which was attended by 104 members.

The chief speaker, Sri Shantanu Gupta, speaking on the global versus



Office bearers of the women's committee from various Sambhags

Indian perspective, compared the two perspectives of life in his address. Regarding the global perspective, he explained that it is based on the narrow mentality of 'earn your own money and consume it on yourself', whereas the Indian perspective is that of 'Purushartha', which rests on the four pillars of Dharma, Artha, Kama and Moksha. The lifestyle here is influenced by Vedanta, at the core of which are devotion and Bhajan. Ekal Shrihari has undertaken the Bhagirath task of deeply integrating this rich tradition into the lifestyle of rural and Vanvasi India.

Meanwhile, Sri Atul Shah, President of Ekal Gram Sangathan, shed light on the role of the Gram Sangathan and emphasised the need to establish better coordination with the Nagar Sangathan and Sevavratins.

Speaking about the Hanuman Parivar Yojana, Sri Rakesh Bansal said that creating 'Hanuman Parivars' at the village level to face internal challenges is the greatest need of the present time. The scheme has been named with the thought that all the most difficult tasks were accomplished by Hanuman ji. Similarly, the Hanuman Parivar will undertake difficult tasks in remote areas and stand firmly against

challenges in the slum settlements of cities.

Progress reports of various chapters were presented at the meeting.

Future Resolve Vision 2030

In the concluding session of the meeting, the organisation set a highly ambitious and transformative goal for the coming years

"Goal 2030: To transform five lakh villages into Sanskar Shiksha Villages."

To translate this vision into reality, 10,000 new 'Sanskar Shiksha Pramukhs' will be prepared across the country, and new chapters will be formed in various parts of the country on a war footing to expand the organisation.

This two-day meeting proved to be one that further strengthened Ekal Shrihari's resolve towards nation-building and the welfare of the Vanvasi community. ■

Siddharth Shankar Gautam
Co- Editor, Ekal Prayas



A special programme titled "Know Ekal" was organized under the banner of Ekal Abhiyan at the Noida Club, Sector 27, in a grand and inspiring setting. The event brought together distinguished intellectuals, social leaders, professionals, and eminent personalities from diverse walks of life. Its primary objective was to acquaint the wider public with the remarkable work of Ekal Abhiyan—its historic journey, transformative initiatives, and future vision for bringing education, values, and self-reliance to India's remote, border, and tribal communities.



Sri Pawan Vijay (behind Sri Kamal Kant Sharma)



Sri Kamlesh Kamal

KNOW EKAL PROGRAMME ORGANIZED

Deliberations on Ekal Abhiyan's Role in Nation-Building and the Preservation of India's Cultural Heritage



The speakers in the programme highly appreciated Ekal Abhiyan's Panchmukhi (Five-Dimensional) Education

Model, describing it as a cornerstone of India's cultural renaissance.

A 37-Year Journey of Transformation and the Roadmap Ahead Manohar Lal

Sri Manohar Lal, Ekal Sah-Abhiyan Pramukh, presented a compelling overview of the movement's historical evolution and its remarkable 37-year journey of service and nation-building. Drawing upon both statistical milestones and personal experiences, he illustrated how an idea that began on a modest scale has grown into a vast and vibrant movement touching the lives of millions across the country. Outlining Ekal's vision for the future, he stated that the organization is now moving forward with renewed momentum to expand technology-enabled education, digital literacy, and

locally generated livelihood opportunities for rural youth.

Ekal's Role in Border Regions Is Unparalleled Kamlesh Kamal

Sri Kamlesh Kamal, Public Relations Officer of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), spoke at length about Ekal Abhiyan's presence and its strategic role in India's border and other sensitive regions. He remarked: "In many of the country's most remote and geographically challenging regions, where mainstream facilities often arrive much later, Ekal Abhiyan's volunteers have been among the first to reach and lay the foundation of education. Through its work, Ekal Abhiyan is not only promoting literacy but also nurturing a deep sense of patriotism and national consciousness among them."

Value-Based Education Is the Nation's Greatest Heritage Pawan Vijay

Renowned speaker and Professor at

Indraprastha University, Prof. Pawan Vijay, linked Ekal Abhiyan's educational model with India's timeless civilizational values and cultural heritage. He emphasized that no nation can truly prosper through textbook knowledge alone. Education achieves its highest purpose only when it is enriched with values, character, and moral grounding

Panchmukhi Education Strengthens Individuals and Society Kamalkant Sharma

Sri Kamalkant Sharma, former Director General of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), elaborated on the philosophy of Panchmukhi (Five-Dimensional) Education, the foundational pillars of Ekal Abhiyan. He explained that the five dimensions—Primary Education, Healthcare, Development, Sanskar (Values), and Community Awareness collectively strengthen both individuals and society. While primary education and value-based learning build intellectual and moral character, healthcare and development initiatives enable rural communities to become physically healthy and economically self-reliant.

The intellectually enriching programme witnessed the presence of several distinguished personalities. ■

Siddharth Shankar Gautam
Prachar-Prasar Prabhari, Ekal Sansthan
Co- Editor, Ekal Prayas



More than 30 million participants from 200,000 Ekal villages celebrated the International Day of Yoga with great enthusiasm. Students, Acharyas, Arogya Sevikas, and community members actively participated in yoga sessions and awareness programmes organized across the country. The nationwide celebration promoted physical fitness, mental well-being, and holistic health, while reinforcing the importance of yoga as a way of life rather than merely a physical exercise. The programme also witnessed the active participation of 108 eminent institutions.

Sanjay Malviya
Kendriya Prachar Pramukh, Ekal Abhiyan







Campus Study Circle at IITM Janakpuri, Delhi



The Institute of Information Technology and Management (IITM), Janakpuri, organised a Campus Study Circle session in the institute auditorium in collaboration with Ekal Sansthan. The session was conducted by Prof. (Dr.) Ramandeep Kaur, Joint Secretary, Ekal Sansthan, for first and second year students of BBA, BCA, BAJMC, and B. Com (H) programmes.

The session aimed to introduce students to the vision and initiatives of Ekal Sansthan, a people-driven movement dedicated to empowering rural India through education and holistic development. Drawing inspiration from Swami Vivekananda's philosophy—"If a child cannot go to school, the school must reach the child"—the discussion highlighted how Ekal has been working at the grassroots level to bring education and awareness to remote villages.

Prof. Kaur elaborated on the **Ekal Model of Social Change**, which focuses on five-fold education and aims to build Shikshit (educated), Jagruk (aware), Swasth (healthy), Surakshit

(safe), Vyasanmukt (addiction-free), Samras (harmonious), Swawlambi (self-reliant), and Sangathit (united) villages. She emphasized how this model contributes to the vision of an empowered and self-sustained rural India.

A key highlight of the session was the introduction to the **Ekal Study Circle** and the concept of establishing a **Campus Ekal Circle (CEC)** within educational institutions. This initiative seeks to bridge the gap between urban youth and rural communities through the **Ekal Rural Immersion (ERI) Programme**. Students were encouraged to actively participate in research-based projects, social entrepreneurship, and community engagement activities.

The session also showcased innovative initiatives such as **Ekal E-Shiksha**, which integrates digital tools like tablets to enhance learning in rural schools, and the evolving **Ekal-on-Wheel** model that aims to deliver services such as digital literacy, STEM education, and basic healthcare to underserved areas.

Prof. Kaur motivated students to contribute meaningfully by developing research papers, mobile applications, documentaries, and entrepreneurial solutions that address real-life rural challenges. She also highlighted the academic and professional benefits of participation, including internships, certificates, and opportunities for higher education.

The interactive session generated keen interest among students, who actively engaged in discussions and explored ways to become part of the initiative. The programme concluded with a strong message of youth involvement in nation-building by connecting with grassroots realities and contributing to inclusive growth.

The Campus Study Circle reflected IITM's commitment to experiential learning, social responsibility, and fostering a deeper understanding of rural India among students. ■

Editorial Team





Launch of the LED Bulb Making & Repairing Course by EGF

Ekal Gramothan Foundation marked a significant milestone in its journey toward sustainable rural development with the launch of its first-ever LED Bulb Making & Repairing Course at GRC Jarangloi, Odisha. More than the inauguration of a new training programme, this initiative represents a strategic expansion of livelihood-oriented skill development designed to prepare rural communities for the opportunities of a rapidly evolving economy.



Participants engaged in the training workshop

The programme introduces participants, particularly rural youth and women, to practical technical skills in LED bulb assembly, maintenance, and repair. By combining hands-on learning with entrepreneurship-oriented training, the course seeks to transform learners from consumers of technology into creators and service providers within their own communities.

From Craft to Commerce - Reimagining Livelihoods through Crochet



Crochet learners at the Hathras Training Centre

In a world increasingly driven by automation and mass production, the value of handmade craftsmanship is witnessing a remarkable resurgence. Recognizing this emerging opportunity, Gramothan's Women Empowerment Centre in Hathras launched its Crochet Training Programme, opening new avenues of skill development and entrepreneurship for women and youth.

The programme commenced with traditional rituals and enthusiastic participation from 50 learners, symbolizing the beginning of a journey that extends far beyond learning a craft. Crochet today is not

merely a hobby; it represents a growing creative industry with expanding demand for handcrafted fashion accessories, home décor products, toys, and customized gifts. Through this initiative, participants are being introduced to skills that can be transformed into sustainable micro-enterprises and home-based businesses.

Where Strength Finds Its Voice - A New Beginning in Chatra

In the quiet district of Chatra, Jharkhand, something powerful began - not with noise, but with determination. A batch of 20 young girls stepped onto the training floor, not just to learn Self Defence Training, but to discover a strength they had always carried within.

This programme organised by Ekal Gramothan Foundation goes beyond physical training. It is about confidence, courage, and self-belief - qualities that no classroom alone can teach. For many of these girls, this is their

first step into a space where they are not told to stay back but encouraged to step forward. Each kick, each stance, each movement becomes more than practice - it becomes a statement: "I am capable. I am strong. I am not afraid."

In regions where opportunities often arrive late, this initiative arrives with purpose. It tells every girl that empowerment is not just about skills for livelihood, but also about the power to stand tall, to protect oneself, and to lead with confidence.



Girls attending the self-defence training session





National Youth Conference

'ABHIGYA 3.0' CONCLUDES WITH A CALL FOR NATION-BUILDING

The annual FTS Yuva National Conference – Abhigya 3.0 was held in Ranchi in a grand, inspiring, and intellectually vibrant atmosphere dedicated to the ideals of nation-building. The central theme of this year's conference, "How Can We Make Bharat Truly Bharat?", encouraged young participants to reflect upon their role in nation-building, value-based living, social responsibility, and the preservation of India's civilizational ethos. The three-day national conference brought together more than 150 FTS Yuva members from over 16 cities across the country, providing a dynamic platform for meaningful dialogue, leadership development, and youth engagement.

The conference was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Governor of Jharkhand, Sri Santosh Gangwar. In his inspiring inaugural address, he remarked: "FTS

is doing such exemplary work that I should have come here not to speak, but to listen." On the occasion, he also released the FTS Yuva Annual Souvenir, marking another milestone in the organization's journey.

Throughout the conference, eminent speakers from diverse fields shared their insights and experiences with the participants. On the first day, renowned author and public speaker Smt. Shefali Vaidya, along with other distinguished speakers, addressed subjects such as cultural awareness, ideological clarity, and the Indian worldview. Their thought-provoking deliberations further strengthened the participants' sense of pride in India's rich cultural heritage and timeless traditions.

The second day featured inspiring sessions by Dr. Kiran Bedi, former IPS officer and noted social reformer, Smt.

Renuka Goswami, and Ms. Paridhi Mangalampalli, who spoke on social leadership, women's empowerment, and national consciousness. During the programme, the book 'Gurukul' was formally released. Renowned author and filmmaker Sri Atul Satya Kaushik also addressed the gathering, motivating the youth to assume proactive roles in leadership, selfless service, and positive social transformation.

On the final day, the keynote address was delivered by Sri Mukul Kanitkar, who spoke extensively on the conference theme, "How Can We Make Bharat Truly Bharat?" He eloquently highlighted the importance of Bharatiyata (Indianness), cultural identity, and the indispensable role of youth in nation-building. He emphasized that the true realization of Bharat's civilizational vision is possible





Hon'ble Governor Sri Santosh Kumar Gangwar with FTS Yuva official

only when young people understand and faithfully discharge their responsibilities towards their culture, society, and the nation.

One of the most distinctive and inspiring features of Abhigya 3.0 was that every conference session was named after remarkable individuals whose lives reflect the transformative

impact of FTS and Ekal Abhiyan. Sessions were dedicated to inspiring personalities such as Chandni, Muskan, Kavita Devi, Mukesh Sardar, Om Prakash Paswan, Rekha Devi, and others. Through these stories of courage and achievement, participants experienced firsthand how education, values, and selfless service can bring meaningful and lasting change to the lives of people in the most remote and underserved communities.

Another noteworthy initiative during the conference was the symbolic plantation of saplings in various Ekal villages across the state in honour of each distinguished guest and speaker.

The cultural dimension of the conference was equally vibrant and inspiring. Renowned devotional singer Virus Ji, widely known for the popular rendition "Bam Bhole," joined the gathering with his team for a special Bhajan Jamming Session, filling the atmosphere with devotion, enthusiasm, and spiritual energy. During the Awards Night and Cultural Evening, Smt. Shagun Pathak captivated the audience with her soulful musical performances.

The conference was also honoured by the gracious presence of FTS's national leadership, including National President Sri Ramesh Kumar Maheshwari, Executive President Sri Tribhuvan Prasad Kabra, National Organising Secretary Smt. Shanta Sarda, and Eastern Region President Sri Ramesh Dharanidharaka. The presence of the FTS Yuva Governing Board further enriched the event and inspired the participating youth.

Special deliberations were also held on membership expansion, organizational growth, and enhancing the active participation of young volunteers, reaffirming the commitment to building a vibrant and dynamic youth movement.

The three-day national conference was meticulously organized by the FTS Yuva Ranchi Chapter, whose dedication, discipline, and exemplary arrangements earned widespread appreciation from all participants and distinguished guests.

Ekal Yuva
Vanbandhu Parishad, Ranchi





Music, Devotion and Youth Leadership Unite Communities Across America for Rural Bharat Boston / Chicago / Houston

Across the United States, Ekal Vidyalaya chapters continue to demonstrate how culture, music, devotion, and community participation can become powerful instruments of social transformation. Three remarkable fundraising events held in Boston, Chicago, and Houston brought together thousands of supporters, volunteers, artists, and youth leaders in a shared commitment to strengthening education and holistic rural development in India.

UTSAV - Bhajan Clubbing for a Purpose, Boston

The Boston Chapter introduced an innovative concept with UTSAV – Bhajan Clubbing for a Purpose, a first-of-its-kind celebration that blended spirituality, contemporary music, and philanthropy. Reimagining the traditional bhajan gathering for today's generation, the event introduced the inspiring concept of "Bhakti with Masti," encouraging participants to sing, dance, celebrate, and serve simultaneously.

The highlight of the evening was an electrifying performance by the acclaimed Rangrez Band, whose contemporary renditions of devotional music transformed the auditorium into a vibrant celebration of faith and community. Families, youth, and senior citizens participated enthusiastically, proving that devotion can be joyful, inclusive, and deeply meaningful.

Reflecting on the event, Smt. Manisha Kumar, Co-President of Ekal Boston, observed that the programme was built on the belief that devotion need not always be solemn to be spiritually enriching. Ms Arushee Divyakirti,



Co-President, described UTSAV as a courageous experiment that successfully connected the community with its cultural roots through an entirely new format. Smt. Manisha Jain, Executive Director of Ekal USA, emphasized that the evening enabled participants to become partners in Ekal's mission of empowering rural and tribal communities through education, healthcare, women's empowerment, and sustainable development. The overwhelming response from attendees affirmed that UTSAV has the potential to become an annual tradition, demonstrating how music, faith, and philanthropy can together create lasting social impact.

Chicago Chapter 2026 Fundraiser



The Ekal Vidyalaya Foundation Chicago Chapter hosted a sold-out fundraising gala attended by more than 700 donors, community leaders, and well-wishers, united by the vision of expanding educational opportunities for children in rural and tribal India.

The evening commenced with the national anthems of India and the United States, followed by the traditional lighting of the ceremonial lamp. The audience was then treated to a memorable musical performance by renowned singer Milind Oak and his accomplished troupe, whose nostalgic and





energetic presentation captivated audiences across generations. During the programme, Ekal leaders highlighted the Foundation's expanding impact through its one-teacher schools and integrated village development initiatives encompassing healthcare awareness, digital literacy, women's empowerment, vocational training, and sustainable livelihoods. Inspired by the presentations, supporters came forward generously, enabling the sponsorship of more than 100 Ekal schools during the event itself.

The fundraiser reflected exceptional teamwork by the Chicago Metro and North Chapter volunteers under the leadership of Sri Kamlesh Shah, Sri Ankita Shah, Sri Rootvij Bhatt, and Ms Kinnari Sachala, supported by an energetic team of dedicated volunteers. Particularly noteworthy was the outstanding participation of Ekal's youth volunteers, whose professionalism, enthusiasm, and leadership illustrated the emergence of a new generation of committed changemakers prepared to carry Ekal's mission into the future.

Ekal Yuva Udaan Annual Fundraiser, Houston



Houston's annual fundraising gala, themed "Ekal Yuva Udaan," celebrated the growing role of young leaders while raising more than US \$710,000 in support of Ekal's educational and empowerment initiatives across rural India.

The programme opened with a moving presentation of the Indian and American national anthems by the Ekal Youth Choir, symbolizing the strong cultural connection of first-generation Indo-American children with both their heritage and adopted homeland. A traditional Panchari Melam performance by Houston Kalakshetra added cultural grandeur to the evening.

One of the most inspiring moments came when Master Vibhav Aluru, now a ninth-grade student, shared his journey with Ekal. Having sponsored his first Ekal school at the age of ten using his personal savings, he reflected on how the experience transformed his

understanding of service and social responsibility.

Addressing the gathering, Smt. Uma Dama, President of the Houston Chapter, reaffirmed Ekal's commitment to education, literacy, healthcare awareness, women's empowerment, and community development in rural India while also supporting local initiatives benefiting women and children in Houston.

The cultural highlight of the evening was "Raghuveera," a spectacular dance production presented by Studio Mudra, featuring 42 Indo-American youth under the direction of Guru Rashmi Sashi, which concluded with a standing ovation.

The event welcomed over 100 new families and more than 200 first-time attendees, reflecting Ekal Houston's expanding community outreach. Young volunteers including

Kanishka Joshi, Anya Singh, Swara Bhatt, and Rajat Nagu shared how volunteering had strengthened their confidence, leadership, cultural identity, and lifelong commitment to community service.

Together, these three events beautifully illustrate the evolving spirit of Ekal Vidyalaya—where innovation meets tradition, youth leadership complements experienced guidance, and music, culture, and devotion become powerful catalysts for philanthropy. More importantly, they reaffirm the unwavering commitment of Ekal's global volunteer family to empowering millions of children and transforming rural and tribal communities across Bharat through education, self-reliance, and sustainable development. ■

Team Social Media, PR and Marketing
EVF USA





Ekal NH Chapter Hosts Its First **Youth-Led Robotics Workshop**



The New Hampshire Chapter of Ekal Vidyalaya recently celebrated a significant milestone with its first youth-led robotics workshop, bringing together STEM education, leadership, and community service in support of Ekal's mission of holistic development in rural and tribal India. Ekal continues to make an impact across 100K villages in India, ably supported by over 50 Chapters across USA.

The initiative was led by Ms Rakhi Grover, Youth Director of Ekal NH. A passionate advocate for STEM learning, Ms Rakhi helped establish Team Sea Serpents, a FIRST LEGO League team, with guidance from Team Phoenix, an FRC team. Over the past two years, the team has grown tremendously, developing technical skills, teamwork, problem-solving abilities, and leadership among its members.

Inspired by Ekal's mission and encouraged by Smt Manisha Jain, Executive Director of Ekal USA, Sri Parveen Minocha, New England Regional President, and Ms Aarti Khurana, President of Ekal NH, Ms Rakhi Grover envisioned an opportunity for the students to give back through a meaningful community outreach programme.

Sri Aaditya Grover, Captain of

Team Sea Serpents and an Ekal youth volunteer, embraced the idea and worked with fellow youth leaders to design an engaging, hands-on workshop for younger students. The team took ownership of planning the event, organizing equipment, preparing lesson plans, and coordinating activities.

The workshop was led by youth volunteers Aaditya Grover, Ganak Gopinath, Jayred Rivera, Abhinav Nandakumar, Shreekar Saravanan, Lucas Menezes, and Atul Arora. Through interactive robotics activities, they introduced participants to engineering concepts, teamwork, and creative problem-solving while demonstrating confidence, collaboration, and a spirit of service.

More than a STEM event, the workshop reflected Ekal's core belief that education empowers individuals to

create positive change. Just as Ekal works to transform lives through education, healthcare awareness, skill development, and village empowerment in India, this initiative empowered local youth to lead, teach, and serve their community.

The Ekal NH Chapter extends its gratitude to Ms Aarti Khurana for her leadership and support, to Smt. Manisha Jain and Sri Parveen Minocha for their encouragement and guidance, to Ms Archana Dubey for generously providing the venue, and to the First Tech Challenge Team Kube coaches Sri Gopi Govindarajan, Ms Sudha Gopinath and Ekal Supporter Sri Vipul Grover for their tremendous assistance in setting up the workshop, to Team Phoenix and FIRST NH for providing workshop materials. Special thanks also go to the parents, mentors, coaches, volunteers, and supporters who helped make the event a success.



Team Robotics supporting Ekal in advancing its vision

As Ekal NH's first youth-led initiative, the robotics workshop demonstrated the power of combining education with service. It showcased how young leaders can use their talents to inspire others while advancing Ekal's vision of empowering communities through learning and opportunity. ■

Social Media and PR Division
EVF USA





Das family visits to the head office of Ekal Vidyalaya Foundation of America



During his recent visit to US, Sri Sanu Das and his wife, Smt. Bijaylaxmi Das, Maa of Purv Prabhag A (P2), were

invited to visit the Head Office of the Ekal Vidyalaya Foundation of America for an interaction with its volunteers. The meeting was attended by several distinguished members of the organization, including Sri Subhas Gupta, Board Member and one of the founding members; Sri Ashok Danda, Board Member and founding member; Smt. Kalpana Fruitwala, Sri Kishore Fruitwala; Smt. Rasmita, Event Organizer at the Head Office; and other staff members.

During the interaction, Sri Subhas Gupta shared the history of the Ekal Vidyalaya Foundation of America, explaining how the organization was established in 1994 through the initiative of Ma. Shyam Gupta and the late Sri Ashok Singhal. He highlighted that a majority of donors in the United

States contribute specifically to support Ekal Vidyalayas. Sri Sanu Das, in turn, explained the systems and processes adopted for monitoring Ekal Vidyalayas and ensuring their effective functioning.

Following the meeting, all participants gathered for lunch at a nearby restaurant, where discussions continued the monitoring mechanisms and the impact of Ekal's educational initiatives.

Sri and Smt. Das were also invited to attend the Annual Event of the Houston Chapter of the Ekal Vidyalaya Foundation of America. Held every year on May 1st, this flagship event serves as a major fundraising platform for the chapter. The programme witnessed the participation of nearly 800 volunteers, supporters, and donors from across the region.

As a mark of respect, Sri Sanu Das was invited to participate in the ceremonial Deep Prajwalan. One of the

highlights of the evening was a captivating dance-drama presentation of "Raghuveera Ramayana," performed by 42 school-going girls under the age of 18 from Ekal families in Houston. The production was choreographed and trained by the local Indian cultural institution, Mudra Dance Studio.

The two-hour performance left a deep impression on the audience and showcased the commitment of the younger generation to preserving and

celebrating India's cultural heritage. Dinner was served to all attendees before the commencement of the dance drama.

During the event, Sri Sanu Das had the opportunity to interact with several key leaders of the organization, including Smt. Uma Dahma, President of the Houston Chapter; Sri Rajeev Arulu, President of the South-West Region of the Ekal Vidyalaya Foundation of America; Sri Ramesh Sah; and other prominent members of the Ekal family.

This visit provided Sri Sanu Das valuable insights into the growth, outreach, and commitment of the Ekal movement in the United States. It also offered him an inspiring opportunity to witness the dedication of volunteers and supporters working tirelessly to advance Ekal's mission of education and rural development. ■

Nishi Agarwal
EVFI, Prayagraj





Ekal Canada

Two Decades of Service, Growth & Dedicated Leadership

Ekal Canada began its journey in September 2006 in London, Ontario, as a registered charity and incorporated organization. Its inaugural event—a musical concert supported by Ekal USA attracted about 90 attendees and marked the beginning of a nationwide effort to support education and holistic development in rural and tribal India. Soon thereafter, the Ekal Vidyalaya Foundation of Canada was formally established.

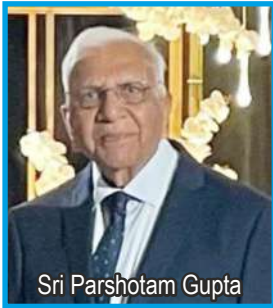
Over the past two decades, Ekal Canada has grown from these modest beginnings into a vibrant

national organization with 15 chapters across the country, including Toronto, Ottawa, Calgary, Edmonton, Vancouver, Winnipeg, and several cities in Ontario. While some chapters are more active than others, this network provides a strong foundation for continued expansion, particularly in Eastern Canada.

The organization's growth has been driven by the support of approximately 2,200 donors and well-wishers over the years. Personal relationships have remained at the heart of Ekal

Canada's outreach efforts, complemented by electronic newsletters, cultural programmes, concerts, Kavi Sammelans, annual picnics, social media engagement, email campaigns, website communications, community events, and participation in Toronto's Independence Day Parade. A major milestone was the successful hosting of the Ekal National Conference and Gala in Toronto in 2018, which brought together representatives from Canada, the United States, and India, further strengthening international collaboration within the Ekal movement.





Sri Parshotam Gupta



Sri Subhash Chander

A significant part of Ekal Canada's success story is its dedicated leadership and volunteer base. Among its most committed leaders is Sri Subhash Chander, currently Director and President of Ekal Vidyalaya Foundation of Canada and a member of the Ekal Global Trust Board. Associated with Ekal since its inception in Canada in 2006 as a donor, he assumed the role of Secretary in June 2012 and served in that capacity until January 2025, when he was appointed President by the Board.

During his tenure, Ekal Canada witnessed remarkable growth. In 2012, the organization sponsored approximately 80 Ekal schools. Today, that number has grown to nearly 1,000 schools, along with support for

Gramothan and Arogya initiatives in recent years. For Sri Subhash Chander, Ekal has evolved from a voluntary commitment into a lifelong passion and source of immense fulfillment.

He readily acknowledges the pivotal role played by Sri Parshotam Gupta, one of the founding members of Ekal Canada and a guiding force behind its development since 2006. In fact, it was through Gupta Ji's inspiration that Sri Subhash Chander became actively involved with Ekal. Over the years, Sri Parshotam Gupta has served as mentor, leader, and motivator for countless volunteers across Canada. He served as President of Ekal Canada from 2015 until January 2025 and currently serves as Director and Chair of the Board.

At ninety years of age, Sri Parshotam Gupta continues to be actively involved not only with Ekal Canada but also within the broader community of London, Ontario, and as a committed member of the Kiwanis Club. His unwavering dedication, energy, and service make him one of the most senior and active Ekal volunteers anywhere in the world. Volunteers across Canada consider themselves fortunate to continue working under his guidance and inspiration.

The dedication of young and senior volunteers alike has been instrumental in Ekal Canada's remarkable journey. Looking ahead, the organization aims to strengthen communications, expand fundraising initiatives, enhance chapter coordination through regular virtual meetings, and adopt a more structured organizational approach. Special emphasis will be placed on the Greater Toronto Area, home to nearly 80 percent of its target community.

From its humble beginnings in London, Ontario, to its nationwide presence today, Ekal Canada stands as a testament to the power of volunteerism, visionary leadership, and community engagement. As it enters its third decade, the organization remains firmly committed to advancing education, empowerment, healthcare, and sustainable development in rural and tribal communities across India. ■

Compiled by
Nishi Agarwal
EVFI, Prayagraj



Young performers showcasing their remarkable talent





PRACHI GARG

A Mission-Driven Journey from Values to Leadership



Smt. Prachi Garg serves as the President of the Bengal, Odisha, and Chhattisgarh Region (Prabhag) of Ekal

Abhiyan and is an ex-officio Vice President of the Campaign's National Executive Committee (CEC). She is widely regarded as a dedicated, disciplined, and mission-oriented karyakarta whose life exemplifies unwavering commitment to the ideals of national service.

Prachi was born into a family deeply rooted in the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) tradition. Both her father, Sri Mahesh Goyal, and her mother, Smt. Damayanti Goyal, were active Sangh workers. As a result, patriotism, social commitment, and a spirit of selfless service became an integral part of her upbringing. Recalling her childhood, Prachi shares that every member of her family—her brothers as well as her sisters—assumed responsibilities within the Sangh from an early age. Thus, alongside formal education, participation in organizational work became a natural way of life for the entire family.

Her mother served as Sah-Prant Karyavahika of the Rashtra Sevika Samiti and, in accordance with the organization's guidance, later went on to serve as the Mayor of Ghaziabad. Her father, Sri Mahesh Goyal, began



Smt. Prachi Garg

his journey as an RSS Pracharak, while her grandfather, Sri Banwari Lal, served as the Sanghachalak of Ghaziabad Mahanagar. Consequently, Prachi's childhood and formative years were immersed in an environment inspired by Sangh values, both at home and in society. Senior RSS functionaries and Pracharaks were frequent visitors to their home, and discussions on the nation, culture, and social responsibility formed an integral part of her family life. These influences profoundly shaped her personality, instilling in her an enduring spirit of patriotism and a deep inner resolve to

dedicate herself to the service of the nation.

Prachi earned her bachelor's degree in Hindi literature and obtained the qualifications of Prabhakar and Visharad in Classical Music and Classical Dance. She also trained as a Yoga Instructor and successfully completed the Prabodh Training conducted by the Rashtra Sevika Samiti, further strengthening her commitment to value-based social service.

Whether by providence or thoughtful planning, Prachi's marriage to Sri Manish Garg brought her to Chhattisgarh, where she found yet another family deeply committed to the Sangh tradition. Her father-in-law, Sri Madan Lal Garg, had been a Bal Swayamsevak from his early years. During his service in the Chhattisgarh Forest Department, wherever he was posted, he took the initiative to establish and strengthen Sangh activities. It was his encouragement that inspired Prachi to build and expand the women's wing of the organization, particularly among the tribal communities, where such work was urgently needed. This encouragement became the foundation of her lifelong commitment to empowering women through organized social service.





By a fortunate turn of events, Ekal Abhiyan's founder and guiding force, Hon'ble Shri Shyam Gupta, stayed at Prachi's home during one of his visits. That memorable occasion proved to be a turning point in her life. Thereafter, her family wholeheartedly encouraged her to devote more time to organizational work. Prachi subsequently established the Rashtra Sevika Samiti in her town for the first time and gradually assumed a variety of responsibilities within Ekal Abhiyan, discharging each of them with dedication and distinction.

Prachi herself recalls that after reading Hon'ble Shri Shyam Gupta's book, Kranti Ram Ki (The Revolution of Shri Ram), she experienced a profound inner awakening. She came to regard Ekal Abhiyan as "Ram Ji's work" and dedicated herself to the mission with

complete conviction. From that moment onward, she felt that she had been destined to serve this noble cause.

Under the affectionate guidance and constant encouragement of senior functionaries, Prachi's commitment to the organization grew even stronger. The warmth, trust, and inspiration she received became an enduring source of strength, and organizational work soon became the central focus of her life. Since the very beginning, she has travelled extensively across Anchal, Bhag, and Sambhag levels of the Gram Sangathan Women's Wing, motivating women, nurturing leadership, and establishing new committees with remarkable success. Having shouldered responsibilities at every organizational level, she presently serves as the President of the Prabhad,

continuing to strengthen and expand the movement.

Prachi possesses an exceptional understanding of organizational leadership and management. Her comprehensive knowledge of the organization's philosophy, coupled with her ability to train and inspire others, has made her an effective mentor and guide. She stands as a shining example for countless women who successfully balance the responsibilities of home and family while dedicating themselves wholeheartedly to the service of the nation and society.

Whether it is an organizational workshop, a training programme, or a formal meeting, Prachi places great emphasis on discipline, punctuality, and systematic functioning. It is truly evident that her life has been devoted to the welfare of the nation and society.

With the blessings of the Almighty and the grace of Lord Shri Ram, may Prachi continue to serve the organization with the same dedication, energy, and commitment for many years to come. ■

With warm wishes
Manju Didi





Thalakkal Chanthu (also spelled Chandu) was a 19th-century Kurichya tribal archer and commander-in-chief of Kerala Varma Pazhassi Raja's army, renowned for leading tribal resistance against the British East India Company in Wayanad.



Thalakkal Chanthu

The Face of Tribal Resistance against the British in Malabar

In the second half of the 18th century, most of the southern states in India were facing threats from Hyder Ali and his son Tipu, the rulers of Mysore. The East India Company supplied arms and ammunition to these states in their fight against Tipu. In return, the company was paid heavy taxes by the states. These taxes were collected by the officials in kind directly from the people- not only was grain extorted from the peasants, but their land was also grabbed. The Company's main objective was to establish a monopoly over the pepper trade in the Malabar region. And it largely succeeded.

The East India Company's strategy was to annex the provinces as its vassals by fomenting civil unrest. However, the rulers of these south Indian provinces such as the Palayakkarars and the local chieftains of the present-day Tamil Nadu, never accepted the Company's rules and bravely fought against it for decades. Veera Kerala Varma Pazhassi, the Raja of the Kottayam kingdom, provided support to the Palayakkarars and led the battle in the Malabar region.

Brave warriors: The first resistance against the East India Company was led by Edachena Kunkan in 1800. But On October 11,

1802, The Panamaram fort, which was used to store the granary collected from the people as tax, was attacked by Thalakkal Chanthu, the general of the army of Pazhassi Raja, along with his tribal brethren. This was a famous victory where Chanthu killed Captain Dickinson and Lt. Maxwell. He was later arrested and hanged in 1805.

Although not much is known about Chanthu's personal life- his birth, family etc., the saga of his bravery endures over the centuries. ■

Source
Wikipedia and Internet



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