

## Ekal Abhiyan



## Creating Sweet and Harmonious transformation in Western UP





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# EKAL PRAYAS

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## Awake, Arise and Achieve



Dear Reader,

Western Uttar Pradesh is that region of the country where farmers and soldiers stand shoulder to shoulder in the progress and security of the nation. The Ekal Abhiyan is active in seven regions of this division. Siddharth Shankar Gautam has presented a detailed report of Ekal's activities in this division, based on his direct observations from ground zero. On the occasion of the silver jubilee of Ekal Bharat Lok Shiksha Parishad, the organization of the 'Ekal Shri Ram Katha' brought the life and character of Shri Ram alive in society. Listening to the Shri Ram Katha from the revered Bhai Shri Ramesh Bhai Ojha moved the audience to tears and inspired them to imbibe Shri Ram's life and follow his ideals.

In Bengaluru, Vanbandhu Parishad organized Abhigya 2, which emphasized the integration of knowledge, inspiration, and culture. This intellectual event became a dynamic platform for youth dedicated to thought, innovation, and nation-building. At the 25th Ekal Study Circle organized by the Ekal Sansthan, students from Delhi University participated in large numbers and gained insight into the various dimensions of the Ekal Abhiyan. During this programme, MoUs were signed under the Rural Immersion Model with Indraprastha College, Zakir Husain College, and Daulat Ram College. Similarly, Ekal Gramoththan Foundation of India signed an MoU with Indira Gandhi National Tribal University, Amarkantak, under which various programs will be organized.

The nation stands speechless at the horror of the terrorist attack on Hindus in Pahalgam. The Ekal Abhiyan strongly condemns this cowardly, blood-soaked act of terror. To demonstrate unity among Hindus and society at large, the Ekal Abhiyan organized protests in more than two lakh villages across the country, reiterating its commitment to eradicating terrorism from its roots. Neeraj Thakur is a dedicated volunteer of the Ekal Abhiyan, who emerged from terror-affected Jammu to establish his identity across the nation. His life journey will serve as an example for society in this issue.

Apart from this, Ekal's work continues to progress through cultural and social events and forest expeditions. The rest will follow in the next issue when we meet again.

Yours,

**Manju 'Didi'**

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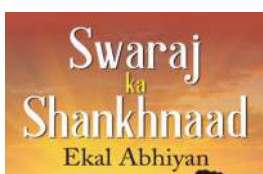
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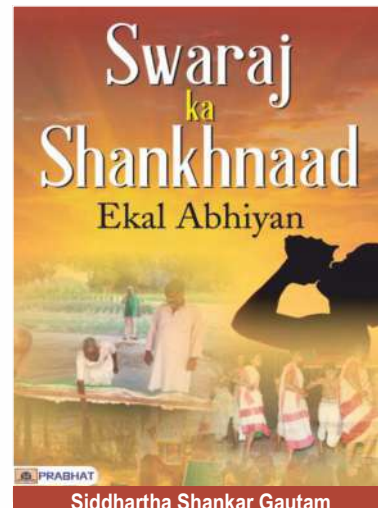
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**Continued...**

Today, Ekal has 7,000 full-time workers and a vast network of structural organizations. Though Ekal now boasts a mammoth organizational structure, it did not grow this big on its own. When its founders were contemplating ways to expand the organization, they grappled with a crucial question: how big should this organization be? After extensive deliberations, it was decided that the organization would be divided into two categories—first, a group of various workers to supervise the

progress, and its area of influence broadened. The number of villages covered by Ekal began to increase. Soon, the Ekal leadership realized that even these units needed to be grouped to ensure better coordination and supervision. Three units were assembled into a consortium (sankul). According to this structure, the head of the consortium could monitor three units in a month. Then, the team deliberated on how many people could be effectively trained in one session.



sub-divisions were introduced. In its initial phase, much of Ekal's operational system existed only in the minds of its senior members, with only a few aspects documented. As Ekal grew and its reputation spread overseas, particularly to America, Indian-Americans became eager to understand its working methodology. Shyam Ji took on this responsibility and toured America to explain Ekal's functioning to the Indian diaspora. He diligently addressed their queries, but



## FROM VISION TO REALITY

training of teachers and workers; second, the control and monitoring of communication. At that time, senior members designated those who could spend an entire month traveling for the organization's work as full-time workers. In this way, a worker could cover around 30 villages. Thus, a unit was formed for a group of 30 villages, with its head being a full-time worker.

**The unit head had to follow a rule:** he would have to spend every night in a village. Step by step, Ekal made

After meticulous discussion, they concluded that a teacher should undergo training for 10 days twice a year. Consequently, 18 training camps (varga) were organized annually for nine units (sanch).

During the rainy season, it became nearly impossible to work in the vanvasi areas. To address this challenge, it was decided that a training team would handle 18 vargas. Hence, a group of nine sanch was called an anchal (zone). Over time, further divisions and

oral explanations were insufficient. It became imperative to prepare a comprehensive brochure and related literature to introduce the Ekal mission to those interested. As a result, Shyam Ji compiled an English booklet titled "Ekal System," which outlined all the key features of the organization and its mission.

Later, when he toured America again, Ekal had evolved into a fully structured organization. The purpose of this tour was to expand Ekal's presence





in America. During this visit, Shyam Ji had learned that Americans prefer detailed information and, once they grasp the essence of a concept, they do not require further explanations. On this trip, Shyam Ji stayed in Bloomington, near Chicago, where Chandak Ji, the Sanghchalak of the Sangh, resided. Chandak Ji invited Shyam Ji to one of his programs and requested that he introduce Ekal to the audience. Shyam Ji readily agreed, but Chandak Ji cautioned him about a potential challenge.

"There is a gentleman here who is very influential. He will not allow the gathering to proceed unless he is convinced of its purpose. He is highly rational and will bombard you with questions. However, as a senior and regular member, his presence cannot be denied. So, be prepared for an intense discussion. Are you ready?" Chandak Ji forewarned Shyam Ji.

Shyam Ji was momentarily perplexed. He could not determine whether Chandak Ji was encouraging or intimidating him. Nevertheless, he was resolute. He told Chandak Ji that he would attend the gathering and requested that a copy of "Ekal System" be given to the gentleman in advance.

Finally, the moment of the gathering arrived. Shyam Ji delivered a presentation about Ekal, followed by a question-and-answer session. The first person to raise his hand was the same gentleman. Chandak Ji grew anxious, fearing that a barrage of difficult questions might disrupt the event. As he pondered the situation, the gentleman addressed Shyam Ji.

His first question was: "Are you Shyam Ji?"

"Yes, I am," replied Shyam Ji.

"Are you the same Shyam Gupta

whose name appears as the author of 'Ekal System'?" he asked.

"Yes, I am the same person," Shyam Ji politely responded.

Then, in an unexpectedly soulful tone, the gentleman remarked, "Whoever has devised the Ekal System is an extraordinary individual. I have read this book several times, and I have no questions for such a great man." Hearing this, Chandak Ji erupted into applause like an enthusiastic child. The atmosphere of the gathering turned warm and positive.

Suddenly, the gentleman posed another question: "Your system is remarkable, but how practical is its implementation?"

Without hesitation, Shyam Ji replied, "It is 30%."

"How did you achieve this 30%?" the gentleman asked.

Shyam Ji then presented a complete framework before the audience. His clarity and honesty about the practical success of the Ekal model impressed the gentleman. In a moment of enthusiasm, the gentleman declared, "From now on, I will also work for the cause of Ekal."

What had impressed him most was Shyam Ji's candid honesty. Most fundraisers and missionaries tend to exaggerate their achievements, often claiming 100% success. However, here was a missionary who unflinchingly admitted that his mission had only achieved 30% practical success. This level of honesty won the hearts of everyone in the gathering and marked a new milestone in Ekal's journey.

The current organizational structure of Ekal is registered under the Ekal Abhiyan Trust, which comprises three main branches:

1. **Nagar Sangathan**  
(Urban Organization)
2. **Gram Sangathan**  
(Rural Organization)
3. **Kendriya Karyakarini**  
(Central Working Committee)

The board of the Ekal Abhiyan Trust formulates policies for the organization's operations. Representatives from all registered organizations serve as trustees of the Ekal Abhiyan Trust. The Central Working Committee, formed by the Trust Board, devises action plans in alignment with these policies.

The Nagar Sangathan and Gram Sangathan are the two pillars of Ekal, intrinsically connected. If one becomes inactive, the other automatically loses its effectiveness. To put it simply, the Gram Sangathan unites villagers and makes them aware of their rights and their country's welfare, while the Nagar Sangathan persuades the urban elite (bhadralok) to contribute to rural development, thereby fostering national progress.

The Ekal mission has effectively demonstrated that the first step towards national development lies in the comprehensive welfare of vanvasi society—through education, healthcare, and empowerment. This ambitious vision originated in a small village in Jharkhand. Its initial needs were simple: **a teacher, a space for a school, basic stationery, and other essential items.** However, all these required funding. Thus, Ekal teams launched fundraising initiatives in cities by forming committees of urban elites, ensuring a steady stream of support for their noble cause. ■

*(To be Continued...)*







India's education system has undergone a profound transformation since the COVID-19 pandemic began in 2020,

driven by technological advancements and a renewed focus on inclusivity. This evolution has unlocked new opportunities for learning while exposing persistent challenges, particularly in rural areas. By leveraging technology and addressing the unique needs of villages, India is paving the way for a more equitable and forward-thinking education ecosystem. A shining example of this transformation is the Ekal Abhiyan's E-Shiksha initiative, which is revolutionizing rural education by bringing digital tools directly to village classrooms.

### The Positive Impact of Education Transformation

The pandemic significantly accelerated digital transformation in Indian education. Online platforms, mobile apps, and AI tools have made learning more accessible and personalized. Platforms like BYJU'S, Khan Academy, and DIKSHA now deliver high-quality, multilingual

## Education Transformation in India Post-2020

### Harnessing Technology and Empowering Rural Communities

content. The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 supports this shift, promoting mother-tongue learning and technology integration, especially in rural regions.

Digital tools are helping narrow the urban-rural divide. With smartphone penetration rising and over 900 million internet users projected by 2025, students in villages can now access educational resources previously limited to cities. Initiatives like Atal Tinkering Labs (over 10,000 set up by 2024) are fostering innovation through coding, robotics, and experiential learning.

Educators are also benefiting. Digital systems simplify tasks like grading, enabling more interactive teaching. Immersive technologies like VR allow students to explore historical sites or perform virtual science experiments. The NEP's focus on

teacher training ensures educators are prepared for digital classrooms.

Importantly, inclusivity is rising. Higher education enrollment since 2014-15 has grown by 50% for SCs, 75% for STs, and 54% for OBCs. Female enrollment has surged by nearly 39%, with women now comprising 43% of STEMM students.

Despite progress, challenges remain. Rural students still face limited access to online learning—only 15% used it regularly by 2023 (ASER). Learning losses during the pandemic, especially in foundational skills, remain

a concern. NEP 2020's emphasis on early childhood education and equitable access continues to guide long-term reform.

**While progress is evident, disparities between rural and urban education persist:**

- **Enrollment Trends:** According to the NSSO survey (2023), 66.7% of primary school children attend government schools nationwide, while 23.4% opt for private institutions. In urban areas, 43.8% of children attend private schools compared to 36.5% in government schools, reflecting a preference for perceived quality. In rural areas, over 70% of students rely on government schools, with only 15-20% in private institutions due to cost and availability constraints.

- **Digital Access:** The 2021 ASER report noted that only 8% of rural





children accessed online learning regularly during the pandemic, compared to 25% in urban areas. By 2023, this gap narrowed slightly, with 15% of rural students using online resources, supported by improved internet penetration and electricity access (47% of rural households had over 12 hours of electricity daily, per the 2017-18 Ministry of Rural Development survey).

**- Learning Outcomes:** In rural Karnataka, the share of Class 5 students able to read Class 2-level texts fell from 47.6% in 2018 to 32.8% in 2020 (ASER), highlighting pandemic-related learning losses. Urban areas, with better access to private tutoring and digital tools, maintained more stable outcomes (50-55%).

**- Pre-Primary Education:** Only 13.1% of Scheduled Tribe (ST) and 17.3% of Scheduled Caste (SC) children aged 3-5 in rural areas attend pre-primary education, compared to 29.4% of upper-caste children in urban areas (75th NSO round, 2017-18). This gap persists despite NEP 2020's focus on early childhood education.

**Ekal E-Shiksha: Pioneering Digital Education in Rural India:** Education is a beacon of hope, and when powered by modern technology, it becomes a transformative force for rural India. The Ekal Abhiyan's E-Shiksha initiative embodies this vision, delivering digital education to villages and empowering students with knowledge, confidence, and self-reliance.

**Project Background:** Launched in 2016 as a small pilot, E-Shiksha has grown into a powerful movement. In its fourth phase, the initiative has expanded to 12 new clusters across Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, and Uttarakhand, covering

600 villages. Previous phases successfully implemented the project in 39 clusters across Assam, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, and Uttarakhand, transforming education in thousands of rural schools.

### Objectives of E-Shiksha

E-Shiksha is more than a technological intervention; it is a vision to make rural education accessible, engaging, and relevant. Ekal teachers (acharyas) are equipped with specially designed tablets loaded with audio-visual teaching materials to spark curiosity and make learning joyful. The project's key objectives include:

- Simplifying technology to serve as a bridge, enabling rural children to compete with their urban peers.
- Making education creative, colorful, and engaging to help students grasp complex concepts with ease.
- Training Ekal teachers to become proficient in digital education delivery.
- Fostering confidence, social awareness, and future-ready skills in students.

### Actionable Steps for Rural Education Transformation

To sustain and amplify this transformation, particularly in rural areas, the following steps are critical:

- 1. Expand Digital Infrastructure:** Accelerate initiatives like BharatNet to ensure high-speed internet in every village. Subsidize smartphones and tablets for low-income households to bridge the digital access gap.
- 2. Strengthen Teacher Training:** Scale up programs to train rural teachers in digital pedagogies,

ensuring they can effectively use tools like DIKSHA and E-Shiksha tablets to enhance classroom learning.

**3. Localize Content:** Develop more multilingual, culturally relevant digital content to cater to diverse rural populations, building on the success of platforms like DIKSHA and E-Shiksha's audio-visual materials.

**4. Public-Private Partnerships:** Encourage collaborations between government, organizations like Ekal Abhiyan, and private edtech firms to fund and scale initiatives like ATLs and E-Shiksha in underserved areas.

**5. Focus on Early Childhood Education:** Increase investment in pre-primary education in rural areas to close the gap in foundational learning, particularly for marginalized communities.

**6. Monitor and Address Learning Gaps:** Conduct regular assessments, like ASER, to track learning outcomes and implement targeted interventions to recover pandemic-induced losses in rural schools.

India's education transformation post-2020 is a testament to the power of technology and human resilience. Initiatives like Ekal Abhiyan's E-Shiksha are lighting the path for rural students, proving that quality education can thrive in even the remotest villages. By combining technological innovation with a commitment to inclusivity, India is not only educating its youth but also empowering them to shape a brighter, more equitable future. Education is no longer just a privilege—it is a key to endless possibilities, handed to every child in the form of a tablet, a teacher, and a dream. ■

**Prof (Dr) Divya Tanwar**  
Professor Cybersecurity  
Somaiya Vidyavihar University, Mumbai





# Ekal Abhiyan



## Creating Sweet and Harmonious transformation in Western UP



In the seven regions of Western Uttar Pradesh—famous for sugarcane farming, the sweetness of jiggery, paper mills, and factories—a total of 2,310 Ekal Vidyalayas (One Teacher Schools) are currently operational, where 69,441 children are receiving education.

Beyond education, under the aegis of the Ekal Abhiyan, various activities are being conducted on themes like values (Sanskar), self-reliance (Swavalamban), cooperation (Sahkar), and social harmony. So far, Satsangs (spiritual gatherings) have been organized at 2,412 locations across the region.

Two Srihari Rathis are traversing the area, proudly carrying the flag of Sanatan Dharma. Three sewing centers, three computer training labs, and two Ekal on Wheels units are actively promoting self-reliance. Meanwhile, in 160 Ekal Vidyalayas, the

integration of e-education has brought a wave of technological advancement in teaching.

In one unit, activities under the Arogya Prakalp (health initiative) have begun, inspiring people to engage in the health sector. Ekal volunteers have helped rural residents obtain 1,672 Aadhaar cards, 2,147 insurance enrollments, and 1,465 bank accounts.

Thanks to the inspiration of these volunteers, 862 rural families have started participating in cottage industries, and 276 farmer families have adopted organic farming. Across the region, 1,854 nutrition gardens (Poshan Vatikas) are a testament to Ekal's success.

Not only that, Ekal workers have also encouraged 2,481 new farmer families to take up cow-rearing (Gaopalan). In the Vidoli unit of the Shamli region, active intervention by

Ekal volunteers has curbed alcohol consumption. In some villages, Ekal Acharyas, with the support of the community, have themselves dismantled liquor stills. These are just a few examples—there are many villages where alcohol prohibition has been successfully implemented.

Across the division, hundreds of former Ekal volunteers and Acharyas who went on to join the Indian Army or



Trainer giving computer training to children in Ekal on Wheels



Uttar Pradesh Police are now reconnected with Ekal. The values they received through Ekal naturally instill in them a deep sense of patriotism.

During my travels, I visited six regions and met with Ekal volunteers, committee members, and villagers. I listened to and witnessed their stories

of dedication and service. Throughout the journey, it felt as though the activities of Ekal Abhiyan had blended into society just like the sweetness of sugarcane.

In this Ground Zero report, you will read about such community-centered efforts initiated and supported by Ekal.



Hearing and speech-impaired girl Susni Shagun learning stitching

## Ekal Vidyalaya Ignites the Flame of Education

Through Ekal Vidyalaya, a significant effort is being made to raise awareness about education among rural children and to educate and instill values in them. During my visit, I personally witnessed the teaching process in five Ekal Vidyalayas under the Charthawal unit of the Lakshminagar region. In the village of Nangla Rai, I interacted with Ekal Acharya Renu Devi; in Ghissukhera, with Acharya Anuradha; in Haibatpur, with Acharya Milan; in Hoshiarpur Tihai, with Acharya Meena Pal; and in Muthra village, with Acharya Pooja Pal. We discussed the teaching methods employed in the Ekal Vidyalayas and I also gained firsthand experience of their operations.

All of these Acharyas are not only well-educated themselves, but are also

working diligently to spread awareness about the importance of education among the children in their respective villages. Many of the children attending these Ekal Vidyalayas are not enrolled in any other school, which further increases the responsibility of the Acharya. They pay special attention to such children and work to awaken in them a love for learning. In addition to

classroom teaching, every Saturday the Acharyas take the children to a nearby religious site, introducing them to their cultural heritage. One of the greatest achievements of Ekal Vidyalayas is that these children, in turn, are helping their illiterate parents learn the basics of reading and writing—a testament to the powerful impact of this initiative.



## Educational Revolution in Rural Areas Through 'E-Shiksha'

Moving beyond the traditional method of imparting education and values, Ekal Vidyalayas are now introducing E-Shiksha (digital education) through tablets in 3,570 villages across 119 units nationwide. In Western Uttar Pradesh alone, E-Shiksha is being implemented in 160 Ekal Vidyalayas across four units. This initiative has not only amazed rural children but also become a topic of

curiosity in the region.

During my field visit, I had the opportunity to witness an E-Shiksha session firsthand in the village of Gauripur, under the Baghpat unit of the Baghpat region. Ekal Vidyalayas have been active in the Baghpat region since 2019, but E-Shiksha was introduced in 2021. It is now being gradually expanded to other schools.

In Gauripur, Ekal Acharya Sushil Kumar has been teaching since 2019. He shared that earlier, classes were conducted using traditional methods, but with the advent of E-Shiksha, children are now learning through tablets. The biggest difference, he noted, is the rise in children's enthusiasm for learning. Since their government schools do not have computers, they find the digital format







at Ekal Vidyalayas more engaging. As a result, the number of children attending has increased, with 25 children now coming to school daily.

Children are learning through preloaded educational content on the tablets, which includes subjects like Hindi, English, Science, Math, General Knowledge, and Value Education. Students like Mannat (7),

Himanshu (9), Keshav (8), Lakshmi (7), Kunal (6), and Kamini, Naina, and Kavya (all 8) find joy in learning through tablets. The audio-visual format helps them grasp concepts more quickly and effectively.

Similarly, in the Shikarpur unit of Bulandshahr region, E-Shiksha is being provided through tablets in 30 Ekal Vidyalayas.



Ekal Vidyalaya students studying using tablets

## **Ekal on Wheels: Bridging the Digital Divide Through Technology**



Susri Priya Vishnoi demonstrating a foot-operated mouse

In the village of Sandalipur under the Chhajlait unit of Moradabad region in Western Uttar Pradesh, 17-year-old Ms. Priya Vishnoi is currently studying in the first semester of her B.Sc. Her sister, Bhoomika Vishnoi, served as the Chhajlait unit head for 16 months, which gave Priya deep exposure to various activities of the Ekal Abhiyan. In 2022, Priya enrolled in the Ekal on Wheels program to receive computer training.

After three months of training, during the final exam, one of Priya's friends was unable to take the test due to an injury to her hands. She couldn't operate a mouse or write. Seeing her friend's helplessness deeply moved Priya. She began to wonder—what if a mouse could be operated with the feet, allowing those with disabilities in their hands to also use computers?

Fuelled by months of determination, discussions with many people, and encouragement from Ekal workers and officials, Priya succeeded in developing two foot-operated mice—one Bluetooth-enabled and the other wired. This innovation marked a turning point in her life. Several voluntary organizations in Moradabad honored Priya for her contribution, and her invention was further enhanced using advanced technology. Priya gives full credit for her vision and hard work to the encouragement and values instilled in her by the Ekal movement and her family.

During my travels across Western Uttar Pradesh, I encountered many inspiring stories like Priya's—young individuals who have not only uplifted their own lives but also transformed the lives of others through education, resilience, and Ekal values.

For instance, 27-year-old Ms. Manisha from the same village, Sandalipur, received training in the August 2022 batch of Ekal on Wheels and is now working as an accountant at DMR Degree College. In another case, 25-year-old Sri Shahabuddin from the village of Manpur also trained through

Ekal on Wheels and now runs a Common Service Center (CSC) in his village, earning up to 30,000 per month.

Sri Manoj Kumar, the trainer of Ekal on Wheels in the Chhajlait unit, shared that this mobile digital classroom has been operating in the Moradabad region since 2019. So far, it has traveled 15,441 kilometers and provided computer training to students in 57 villages, including 417 girls and 349 boys.

Similarly, an Ekal on Wheels unit is active in the Titaron unit of Shamli region. It has covered 41,648 kilometers, reaching 52 villages. From 67 batches, a total of 929 children—466 girls and 463 boys—have received computer training here.

In the Gajraula unit of the Moradabad region, another Ekal on Wheels bus has trained 866 students from 59 villages, including 458 girls and 408 boys.

Through this initiative, rural youth are not only connecting with modern technology but are also finding meaningful paths toward self-reliance and livelihood.





## Computer Training Labs: Unlocking Livelihood Opportunities

Under the aegis of the Ekal Gramin Utthan Resource Center, multiple Computer Training Labs (CTLs) are being operated across Western Uttar Pradesh. These labs, situated in remote rural areas, are equipping young boys and girls with essential digital skills and opening doors to sustainable livelihoods.

In the village of Charthawal under the Charthawal unit of Lakshminagar region, a Computer Training Lab has been operational since October 2024. Sri Ashish Nainwal, 27, has been associated with the center since its inception and serves as the computer instructor. He shared that the center is equipped with 10 computers and has so far trained 80 students in computer literacy.

During my visit, certificates were distributed to 20 former trainees of the Charthawal lab. I also had the opportunity to meet Sri Sanskar Tyagi, 21, from Mahabalipur village, who completed his training in the October–December 2024 batch. He

Location : Charthawal, Muzaffarnagar (U.P)



said that in addition to learning basic computer skills, he also learned typing from Ashish Sir, which helped him secure a job as a typist at the Tehsil office. He currently earns 6,000 per month.

Similarly, I met Sri Dev Kumar, 18, from Sikanderpur village, who is now working as a typist at a Common Service Center (CSC), earning 5,000 per month after completing his training at the center. Another trainee, Sri Harsh Tyagi, 23, from Nyahu village, now works in the accounts department of a Hero Honda showroom and earns 8,000 per month. A similar initiative, the Smart Digital Center, has been



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operational since 2019 in the village of Titron under the Titron unit of Shamli region. This center has trained 389 children in computer skills so far, with 19 students currently enrolled. Many of the trained students are now employed at CSCs, government offices, and private companies.

In the Moradabad region, the Computer Training Lab at the Gramothan Resource Center (GRC) in the Gajraula unit has been running since 2021. It has provided training to 322 children to date. This year, four new students have enrolled in the teleclass programme offered there.

## Sewing Centers Empowering Rural Women with Self-Reliance

Through the Ekal Gramin Utthan Resource Center, sewing centers are being operated across various regions of Western Uttar Pradesh with the objective of empowering rural women and making them self-reliant.



At the Women Empowerment Center (i.e., Sewing Center) in the Gajraula GRC of the Moradabad region, operational since 2017, trainer Ms. Nutan Upadhyay shared her inspiring journey. She herself was a trainee in the first batch of this center in 2017 and is now teaching other women the skills of sewing and embroidery. During my visit, Ms. Nutan introduced me to Ms. Neha Goswami from the village of Salempur Gosai, a former Ekal Vidyalaya teacher. Neha received sewing training at the center in 2023 and now earns ₹3,000–₹5,000 per month. She has also voluntarily taught

sewing to many women in her neighborhood. Neha is getting married in May and is stitching all her wedding clothes herself.

Similarly, Ms. Roshni, 18, from the village of Babanpura, learned sewing from the center in 2023 and has since started working from home, earning around ₹4,000–₹5,000 per month. Ms. Geetu Mishra from Gajraula village is currently undergoing training at the center and has already made arrangements to open a sewing shop in her village once she completes the course.







Through the Gajraula Gramin Utthan Resource Center, a sewing sub-center is also running in the village of Kadarabad with 5 sewing machines, and another satellite center is operating in Avdhipur village with 2 sewing machines. These centers attract a large number of women from neighboring villages who come to learn sewing.

In the Titron unit of Shamli region, a sewing training center has been operating under the Smart Digital Center since 2019. It has trained 459 women so far. Trainer Ms. Sonia introduced me to several empowered women including Suman (Kakralla village), Radha, Khushi, Tanu,

Anuradha, Deepanshi (Titron village), Vanshika (Jatiyakhedi village), and Ritu (Baneda Khemchand village). All of them have become self-reliant after completing their training and now earn ₹2,000–₹5,000 per month, supporting their families.

Two satellite centers in Thanabhawan and Dhulawali villages also operate under this initiative. These centers have trained a total of 463 women so far.

In the village of Charthawal under the Charthawal unit of the Lakshminagar region, a sewing center has been running since October 2024 under the guidance of Ekal GRC. So far,

48 women have been trained here, paving the way toward their livelihood. I met 17-year-old Ms. Shagun at the center, who is mute, deaf, and illiterate but aspires to become self-sufficient through sewing. Another resident of Charthawal, Ms. Mamta Garg, is now earning ₹3,000 per month from her home using her personal sewing machine. Meanwhile, Ms. Kavita Devi from Jagaheri village earns ₹8,000–₹10,000 per month by working from home after receiving training from the center.

During my visit, certificates were distributed to 22 former women trainees at the center.



## Beauty Parlor Course Sparks Enthusiasm Among Rural Women

In the Smart Digital Center at Titron, Shamli region, the launch of the Beauty Parlour Center in January 2025 has generated excitement among women from rural areas. Ms. Sonia, the trainer of the sewing center, is also conducting the beauty parlour course, where women are being trained in bridal makeup, eyebrow shaping, hair cutting, facials, and more.

## “Nutrition Gardens” – A Rural Path to Health and Self-Reliance

In Bagpat region, Sri Brahmpal Singh, the committee secretary, has transformed 150 square yards of his backyard into an inspiring Nutrition Garden, promoting both health and self-sufficiency in rural communities. Grown organically with cow dung manure, the garden boasts of lemon, basil, papaya, mint, brinjal, mustard, curry leaves, guava, coriander, turmeric, and other medicinal and nutrient-rich plants.

Sri Singh also prepares his own seeds and distributes them freely



Sri Brahmpal Singh showing a 100-year-old bottle gourd.

among villagers, encouraging them to grow their own nutrition gardens. Inspired by his work, farmers like Sri Mukesh Chauhan have started similar gardens at home. Today,



Seeds made through self-effort

Brahmpal Singh's initiative has become a beacon of inspiration in the region. With pride, he showed a 100-year-old bottle gourd grown by his late father-symbolizing a legacy rooted in nature and culture.





## Inspiring Society through Organic Farming

From Muradabad region, farmers' Sri Prahlad Singh of Salempur Gosai village and Sri Umesh Pal are shining examples of organic agriculture. They not only grow chemical-free crops on their own land but are also guiding fellow farmers toward sustainable farming. Sri Prahlad Singh cultivates organically on 7 out of his 30 bighas of land, while Sri Umesh Pal has been farming organically on his 10 bighas for the past five years. After receiving training at the GRC Gajraula (Gramin Resource Centre), they have become advocates for "poison-free" farming. Whenever there is a shortage of organic manure, the GRC steps in to support them.



## "Satsang" – A Flow of Cultural Values through Spirituality

The Ekal Abhiyan not only promotes value-based education but also nurtures the roots of Sanatan Dharma in rural India through the Ekal Srihari Satsang Samiti. During my field visit, I had the privilege of visiting Kalaina village in the Khurja division of Bulandshahr, where I experienced the sacred presence of the Srihari Rath and participated in a deeply moving satsang.

Sri Madanpal, the Rath in-charge, shared that the Srihari Rath has been journeying through Bulandshahr since May 2024, having so far visited 24

villages. The mobile Srihari Rath Mandir has welcomed 1,063 devotees for darshan and worship.

In Kalaina village, the satsang was hosted at a devotee's home. It began with the worship and aarti of the mobile Srihari Rath Mandir, followed by a soulful satsang where villagers sat reverently before the image of God. Among the participants were Ekal Acharya Geeta, along with Chanda Tai, Neetu Singh, Krishna Bai, Shashi Devi, Neha Chaudhary, Dharmwati Devi, Shanti Devi, Meena Devi, and Santlesh Devi, among others.

After the hour-and-a-half-long satsang, the Srihari Rath moved to the village ground, where the Ramayana was screened on an LED display installed on the Rath. The screening drew a large crowd of villagers, especially youth, who sat in rapt attention.

Through such spiritual gatherings, rural youth are increasingly connecting with Sanatan values, embracing not only devotion to God but also a deep sense of national pride.



Villagers doing satsang with Shrihari and Ekal volunteers in the village



Villagers performing worship rituals of the Shrihari Rath Temple







## These Are the Unsung Heroes of 'Ekal'



Sri Rakesh Goswami

In the Moradabad region, Smt. Geeta Goswami, the Committee President, is supported wholeheartedly by her husband, Sri Rakesh Goswami, who runs a utensils manufacturing factory that exports to international markets. A tax consultant and accounting expert himself, Sri Goswami often attends Ekal meetings and events due to his wife's active involvement in the mission.

He has played a transformative role by teaching accounting to over 150 students in Moradabad, helping many secure employments in various offices. One of his students, Sri Manoj Johri, now works at the CL Gupta Eye Institute earning ₹35,000 per month. Similarly, Sri Pankaj Sharma at Pooja Metals earns ₹22,000, Ms. Preeti Yadav at BRG Tax Consultant earns ₹15,000, and Ms. Anjali Yadav earns ₹9,000 per month.

Among them, Sri Aman Raghav, whose father is an auto driver, now earns ₹40,000 per month as a tax

consultant after being trained by Sri Goswami. His two younger brothers, Sri Baburam and Sri Pawan Kumar Goswami, also contribute by offering jobs to trained candidates in their companies.

In Bulandshahr, Pravesh Devi, a former Ekal Acharya from Kharakali village, now works as an ASHA worker, while Uma Devi, another former Acharya from the Brajghat division, is employed as nursing staff with 102 Ambulance services in Hapur.

From the Baghpat region, Komal, a former Acharya from Sup village in Chhaprauli division, is now a teacher in a government school in Delhi. Meanwhile, Sri Sonu Kumar from Gawdi village in Aminagar Sarai division is now serving in the Delhi Police.

In Shamli region, Sri Praveen Kumar, former division head of Lakhnauti and previous regional office coordinator, is now employed at Magenta Finance Company. Similarly, Sri Kartik, former division head of Chausana, is now working at HDFC Bank, and Sri Sankit, another former division leader, is proudly serving in the Indian Army.

From the Lakshminagar region, Ms. Vinita, a former Ekal Acharya from Mandaud village in Mirapur division, and Ms. Meenakshi from Amrauli village in Qila Parikshitgarh division, have both recently been selected for Uttar Pradesh Police.



Susri Komal

At Kakrala village in Shukratal division, Acharya Poonam has established a small-scale home industry producing detergent, soaps, and washing powder, generating an additional monthly income of ₹10,000. She has also inspired and trained many women in her village, enabling them to become self-reliant.

This is just a glimpse of the many Karmaveer warriors who have emerged from the Ekal movement. With more time, this list of change makers would grow even longer. The values, education, and social consciousness instilled by Ekal continue to motivate its former volunteers to progress and serve society with purpose. ■

**Siddharth Shankar Gautam**  
Prachar-Prasar Prabhari, Ekal Abhiyan

(With contributions from: Rajeev Kumar, Veer Kunwar, Mukesh Kumar, Krishna Kumar, Ravindra Singh, Arvind Kumar, Anil Bharadwaj, Vikas Kumar, Arvind Kumar, Gappu Lal)

(All data referenced is up to February 2025)



# BLSP Organized

# Ekal Sri Ram Katha

## on the Auspicious Occasion of Its 'Rajat Jayanti Varsh'



To mark the 25-year seva yatra of Bharat Lok Shiksha Parishad (BLSP), a grand nine-day event of "Ekal Sri Ram Katha" was organized from March 29 to April 6, 2025, at Punjabi Bagh Stadium (Janmashtami Park), Delhi. The event was graced by the revered katha vachak, Param Pujya BhaiSri Ramesh Bhai Ojha, whose soulful narration drew 4,000 to 5,000 devotees daily.

The celebrations included Sahastra Chandi Mahayagya, a Karyakarta Karyashala, an exhibition on Ekal Vidyalaya and Panchmukhi Shiksha, a replica of the Sri Ram Mandir, Ayodhya, Sanskritik Sandhya, and the launch of the book 'Ekal: Ek Kranti'. These events added spiritual and cultural depth to the occasion. The entire event was coordinated under the able leadership of Sri Subhash Agrawal, Trustee and Convenor, along with the Managing Core Committee.

The festivities began with a vibrant Shobhayatra, in which 400 women in traditional attire walked from Sri Sanatan Dharm Mandir, West Punjabi Bagh, to the venue. Children from 108 villages presented tableaux (jhaankiyaan) portraying episodes from



Smt. Rekha Gupta, CM, Delhi along with other distinguished guests

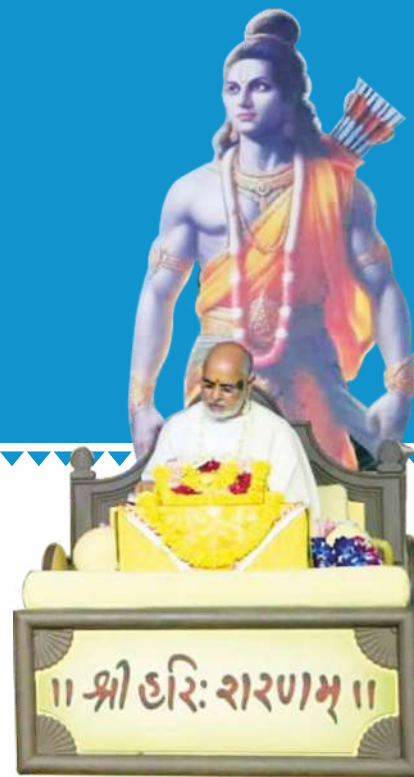
Bhagwan Sri Ram's life—celebrating the essence of Sanatan Sanskriti.

The event saw the gracious presence of revered saints and national dignitaries, including Swami Balakānand Maharaj, Swami Govind Dev Giri Ji, Bālyogi Umesh Nath, Union Minister Sri Ramnath Thakur, Sri Alok Kumar, Ma. Shyam Gupta, Smt. Rekha Gupta, Sri Nand Gopal Nandi, Sri Vijender Gupta, and Sri Pravesh Verma, among others. All participated in the Ram Katha and received blessings from BhaiSri.

The Sahastra Chandi Mahayagya, conducted by 108 Brahmins, featured daily vaidik anushthaan and Chandi Paath, dedicated to the welfare of society, upliftment of Sanatan Dharma, and national prosperity. During the Karyakarta Karyashala, Rashtriya Mahamantri Sri Rajeev Agrawal offered guidance, and the concluding session was attended by Sri Vijay Gupta and Smt. Madhuri Agrawal. Dedicated karyakartas were honoured for their contributions.

The Ekal Vidyalaya Exhibition showcased the Panchmukhi Shiksha model, allowing guests and donors to interact with acharyas and students. A divine replica of Sri Ram Mandir, Ayodhya, provided spiritual darshan to all attendees.

Cultural highlights included soulful performances by the Ekal Surtal Team, enactments by the International Ramleela Mahotsav Association, and



sessions like 'Atulniya Bharat' and 'Art of Life' by Srimati Smriti Kuchhal.

The book 'Ekal: Ek Kranti', authored by Nazia Ilahi Khan, was launched by Sri Lakshmi Narayan Goel, in the presence of BhaiSri and Swami Govind Dev Giri Ji. Swami Ramdev extended his blessings through a video message.

BhaiSri reminded listeners, "There is no greater medium than Bhartiya Sanskriti to walk the path of purity." He praised the Ekal Vidyalaya children's bhajan renditions and emphasized that Ekal is preparing storytellers for Vanvasi communities.

As Smt. Rekha Gupta noted in her keynote, "Ekal's work is divine, bringing education to places where even governments cannot reach." Sri Lakshmi Narayan Goel commended the dedicated efforts of BLSP and its volunteers.

Thousands enriched their lives through this spiritually uplifting celebration. ■

**Rajeev Agrawal**  
Gen. Secretary,  
Bharat Lok Shiksha Parishad







॥ एकल ॥

# भारत लोक शिक्षा परिषद्

(एकल अभियान से संबंधित)

विश्व का सर्वश्रेष्ठ सामाजिक शिक्षा संगठन



**मात्र ₹ 30 हजार में एक एकल विद्यालय**  
एक वर्ष तक संचालित होता है, जिसमें 20-25 बच्चे पढ़ते हैं।

## Annual Donation

ONE SCHOOL	30,000/-
50 SCHOOL (PARAMVEER)	15,00,000/-
100 SCHOOL (SHATAKVEER)	30,00,000/-
1000 SCHOOL (MAHASHATAKVEER)	30,00,000/-

## Donation through website



[www.ekalblspindia.org](http://www.ekalblspindia.org)

## Donation through UPI



[blsp.98721761@hdfcbank](mailto:blsp.98721761@hdfcbank)

## Donation Under CSR - Account Details

Bharat Lok Shiksha Parishad  
Union Bank Of India  
Shalimar Bagh, Delhi-110088  
A/C NO. 467902010123677  
IFSC code: UBIN0546798

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**चलो जलाएं शिक्षा का दीप वहां, जहां आज भी अंधेरा है...**

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# Integration of Knowledge, Inspiration, and Culture

## Abhigya 2

Bengaluru chapter embraced the responsibility of hosting with complete dedication and team spirit. Under the leadership of Local Committee President Sri Hathimal Baid, members like Sri Ranjit Jain, Sri Vaibhav Gupta, Sri Narendra Bharandiwal, and from the women's committee, Smt. Sarita Bhansali, Smt. Renu Kanodia, Smt. Anita Jain, and Smt. Jyoti Bhatt,



The three-day national youth conference **Abhigya 2** organized by the youth wing of Friends of Tribals Society (FTS), was held with grandeur and dignity from April 18 to 20, 2025, at the prestigious Ramada by Wyndham hotel in Yelahanka, Bengaluru. The event witnessed participation from 37 young representatives across 17 cities in India, along with national office bearers of FTS. More than just a programme, this conference became a vibrant platform for youth dedicated to thoughts, innovation, and nation-building.

Following the immense success of the first edition **Abhigya** held in Kolkata in 2024, **Abhigya 2** infused new energy and consciousness among the youth in Bengaluru this year.

The event was graced by senior and experienced office bearers of FTS, including National President Sri Ramesh Saraogi, Executive President Sri Ramesh Maheshwari, Smt. Shanta Sarda, Sri Radheshyam Garg, Sri Ramesh Agrawala, Sri Bimal Saraogi, and Smt. Sarita Agrawal. Their guidance and inspiring speeches energized the youth.

From the National Core Committee, Youth National Coordinator Sri Neeraj Harodia, South Zone Coordinator Sri Pritesh Burad, West Zone Coordinator Sri Rasu Jain, and East Zone Coordinator Sri Utsav Parasar played pivotal roles in the organization.

**Exceptionally good arrangements by Bengaluru Chapter:** The

along with ten other women members, actively participated and played significant roles in the event's success.

**A Confluence of Remarkable Speakers:** The programme was divided into nine sessions over two days, featuring 11 esteemed keynote speakers and 48 young speakers who delivered impactful and thought-provoking presentations on various topics. Notable highlights included:

- Sri Digvijay Singh from Maharshi Vedic University discussed the integration of Vedic culture with modern education.
- Senior journalist Smt. Manojna Loewal introduced the youth to the power of media and communication.







Office bearers of Vanbandhu Parishad and Ekal Yuva participating in Abhigya 2

- BK Veena Didi from Brahma Kumaris Ashram spoke on inner peace and balance.
- Dr. Jai Madaan, renowned astrologer and motivational speaker, taught the art of making the right decisions in life.
- An 8-year-old from Ayodhya, Ahutya Shukla, touched the hearts of the audience with patriotic poems.
- Smt. Neha Jain, an expert in yoga and sound therapy, guided towards a stress-free life.
- A monodrama 'Draupadi' presented by Smt. Anjana Chandak moved everyone emotionally.
- In the closing ceremony, Ishita Vishwakarma, winner of 'Sa Re Ga

Ma Pa 2019' and honored singer of 'One Voice One,' elevated the program to an emotional peak with patriotic songs.

### Honors and Achievements:

**Bengaluru Team Made History** - The three-day national conference concluded with a grand award ceremony, where FTS Yuva honored outstanding contributions in various fields across multiple categories. These awards recognized excellence in event management, social engagement, innovation, inspirational activities, cultural harmony, and organizational dedication.

Youth committees from across the country were nominated in different categories, with the Bengaluru youth committee clinching top honors in three prestigious categories at the national level:

1. **IS Member Award:** Awarded to the team leading in adding maximum members and demonstrating active participation.
2. **Best Event for Cultural Connect:** Recognized for the best event connecting society through cultural activities.

3. **Best Youth Team of India:** The highest honor awarded to the Bengaluru team for exceptional dedication, leadership, and coordination among all youth committees nationwide.

These accolades not only acknowledged the hard work of the Bengaluru team but also positioned them as a model and source of inspiration for FTS youth committees across the country.

The success of this event was significantly attributed to the relentless 30-day effort and dedication of the Bengaluru youth committee. Under the leadership of President Sri Vikram Agrawal and Secretary Sri Pawan Rajliwal, the youth team exhibited discipline and excellence at every level.

Key team members included Sri Ashish Gupta, Sri Pritesh Burad, Sri Ankur Jain, Ms. Aarti Agrawal, Ms. Rachna Dalmia, Sri Ayush Agrawala, Sri Prahlad Joshi, Sri Praveen Gehlot, Sri Deepak Sharma, and Sri Anil Sarda, among others, who collectively made this event historic. ■

**Event Management Team**  
Ekal Yuva, Bengaluru



Ekal Yuva honouring Master Ahutya Shukla





# EKAL GRAMOTHAN FOUNDATION SIGNS MoU WITH IGNTU FOR COLLABORATION



Ekal Gramothan Foundation achieved a significant milestone by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Indira Gandhi National Tribal University (IGNTU), Amarkantak. This collaboration marks a new era in fostering education, skill development, and empowerment for tribal communities, ensuring greater access to quality learning and vocational training.

**About Indira Gandhi National Tribal University (IGNTU):** Indira Gandhi National Tribal University, established in 2007, is a central university dedicated to promoting higher education and research among tribal communities. Located in Madhya

Pradesh, IGNTU offers diverse undergraduate, postgraduate, and doctoral programmes with a special emphasis on tribal culture, heritage, and sustainable development. The university aims to empower tribal students through quality education and skill-building initiatives, preparing them for a competitive global landscape.

**Special Committee Formation and Trust Board Meeting:** To ensure the successful execution of this initiative, a Trust Board meeting was convened on December 10, 2024. During the meeting, a special committee was formed under the leadership of Sri Laxmi Narayan Goyal, Chairman of Ekal Gramothan Foundation Trust. Distinguished

dignitaries in attendance included National Organisational Secretary Dr. Lalan Kumar Sharma, Prof. Vikas Singh, Trustee Sri Naresh Jain, Vice President of Ekal USA Mahesh Navani, Trust Board Chairman Sri SK Jindal, EGF Chairman Sri Ramesh Kanodia, Regional Head P7-A Sunil Agarwal, Joint General Secretary Dr. Aradhana Sharma, Trustee Chandrakant Raipat, EGF Executive Director Sri Bhaskar Sharma, Treasurer Sri Ashwani Agarwal, and several members of the Ekal Executive Committee and Trust Board.

## About Ekal Gramothan Foundation (EGF)

Ekal Gramothan Foundation is a dedicated rural development initiative







actively working in over 4.5 lakh villages across India. Focused on empowering villages through skill training, entrepreneurship, and sustainable livelihood programs, EGF aims to uplift rural communities by providing education, vocational training, and technology-driven solutions that foster self-reliance and economic growth.

**Event Highlights:** The MoU signing ceremony was graced by the esteemed presence of Sri Lakshmi Narayan Goyal, Chairman of Ekal Gramothan Foundation Trust, and Prof. Byomkesh Tripathi, Vice Chancellor of IGNTU. Other key attendees included Dr. Aradhana Sharma, Joint General Secretary; Sri Bhaskar Kumar Sharma, Executive Director; and Project Heads Sri Ashish Kumar and Sri Himanshu Mehra.

Joining the event virtually were Dr. Lalan Kumar Sharma, National General Secretary of Ekal Abhiyan; Sri Suneel Agarwal, Regional Head P7-A; Sri S.K. Jindal, Chairman; Sri Vikas Singh, Dean of IGNTU; and Sri Pankaj Pyasi.

### Key Benefits of the Collaboration

- 1. Joint Certification Programme:** Students will receive joint certification, with credentials bearing the logos of both IGNTU and EGF. This official recognition will significantly enhance the credibility of their qualifications, improving their employability prospects.
- 2. Expanded Curriculum:** EGF will integrate additional courses currently offered at IGNTU, expanding the range of learning opportunities and skill-building programmes available to tribal youth.

## EKAL GRAMOTHAN FOUNDATION EKAL Project Details

Project	Project Details	Total No. of Project
GRC	GRCs provide skill training to youth, women, and farmers while promoting sustainable farming and modern technology.	13
SDC	A joint venture of CTL & WEC running together	9
IVD	The IVD model focuses on the collective development of 30 villages (1 Sanch), with all Ekal verticals working together to uplift youth, women, and farmers.	45
WEC	Women Empowerment Center (Training of Stitching, Beautician Course and addition of other courses as per the requirement of the Beneficiaries)	94
EOW	EKAL On Wheels is a computer training facility that has been set up inside a mobile vehicle equipped with 9 workstations and 18 seating capacities.	47
CTL	Computer Training Lab providing comprehensive training programs designed to enhance the skills and economic prospects	24
OCT & Others	Ekal Gramothan Foundation trains farmers in organic farming, promoting eco-friendly practices and better yields. This shift not only increases income but also improves soil health, protects cattle, and helps prevent lifestyle diseases like diabetes and cancer.	6
Total		238

**3. Industry-Relevant Training:** The partnership is designed to equip students with industry-relevant skills, making them more competitive in the job market and fostering sustainable career pathways.

**4. Empowerment through Education:** By combining the expertise and resources of both institutions, this initiative aims to bridge educational gaps and create transformative learning experiences for tribal communities.

**A Vision for Lasting Impact:** This MoU is more than just a formal agreement; it is a transformative step toward real and lasting change. By

leveraging the strengths of both IGNTU and EGF, the collaboration will enhance access to quality education and vocational training, ultimately uplifting the livelihoods and living standards of tribal populations.

Through joint initiatives, skill development programmes, and innovative learning methodologies, IGNTU and EGF reaffirm their shared commitment to empowering tribal communities and integrating them into India's broader growth narrative. This partnership is a testament to the power of collective action in driving sustainable social and economic progress. ■

**Bhaskar Sharma**  
Executive Director, Gramothan Foundation





In the heart of India's most remote villages, where access to education and resources is scarce, a powerful force is at work—Ekal Vidyalaya. Driving this movement is a deep-seated belief in empowerment through literacy and skill development, a mission that has been amplified by the unwavering support of the Guru Krupa Foundation (GKF). Their commitment to uplifting underprivileged communities has not only transformed countless lives but has also reinforced the very essence of Ekal's vision.

**A Partnership Rooted in Compassion and Purpose:** Guru Krupa Foundation, a compassionate force from New York, was built on the simple yet powerful values of helping those in need, spreading knowledge, and keeping cultural roots alive. In Ekal Vidyalaya, they found a perfect partner - a shared dream of bringing education, healthcare and economic prosperity to the most remote villages in India.

Sri Mukund Padmanabhan, the visionary behind GKF, strongly believes in education as the foundation for breaking the cycle of poverty, stating: "Providing children with quality education is the best way to help them break out of poverty. Primary education provides the basic foundation on which later successes can be built." It is this belief that has driven GKF's extensive contributions to Ekal's cause.

**The Impact of GKF: Transforming 30 Villages in Amrabad, Telangana Through Skill Development and Empowerment:** With the support of Guru Krupa Foundation, the Ekal

A key focus is women's empowerment, equipping them with tailoring, handicrafts, and mushroom farming skills to achieve financial independence. Farmers are trained in organic farming, pest control, and food preservation, boosting yields and incomes by connecting them to better markets.

The programme also brings virtual healthcare consultations to remote villages, promotes homegrown nutrition for food security, and educates communities on sanitation, clean water, and disease prevention, ensuring a healthier, self-sufficient future.



## Guru Krupa Foundation

### A Pillar of Strength for Ekal Vidyalaya's Mission

Since 2013, GKF has been a guiding light in Ekal's journey, funding schools, introducing e-learning with tablets, and making sure no child is left behind, no matter how far they live. Beyond education, GKF has also supported Integrated Village Development, helping communities grow through better healthcare, livelihood opportunities, and sustainable living.

Integrated Village Development (IVD) programme is transforming 30 villages in Amrabad by fostering education, digital literacy, healthcare, and skill training over five years.

- Villages Served: 30
- Population Reached: 4,096
- Beneficiaries This Quarter: CTL-22, WEC-20, Farming-150
- Total Trained to Date: CTL-194, WEC-233, Farming-964

### A Future of Empowerment & Opportunity

Through digital literacy, skill training, and sustainable agriculture, villagers are gaining the tools to shape their own futures. Women are becoming entrepreneurs, farmers are improving their yields, and youth are mastering digital skills—fostering independence and self-reliance in rural Bharat. This transformation would not be possible without Guru Krupa Foundation's generosity, which continues to light the path toward a future where every child learns, every woman is empowered, and every family has the chance to prosper. ■

**Manisha Jain**  
Executive Director, Ekal Vidyalaya, USA





## A group of children and adults standing in front of a school building. The children are wearing uniforms, and the adults are standing behind them. The building has a sign that says 'SCHOOL'.

EKAL YUVA-BLSP  
**PROTEST**  
FOR PAHALGAM  
VICTIMS

यशवन्तिका सभा में भाग लेते लोग।

**Esha Jain**  
President, Ekal Yuva, BLSP



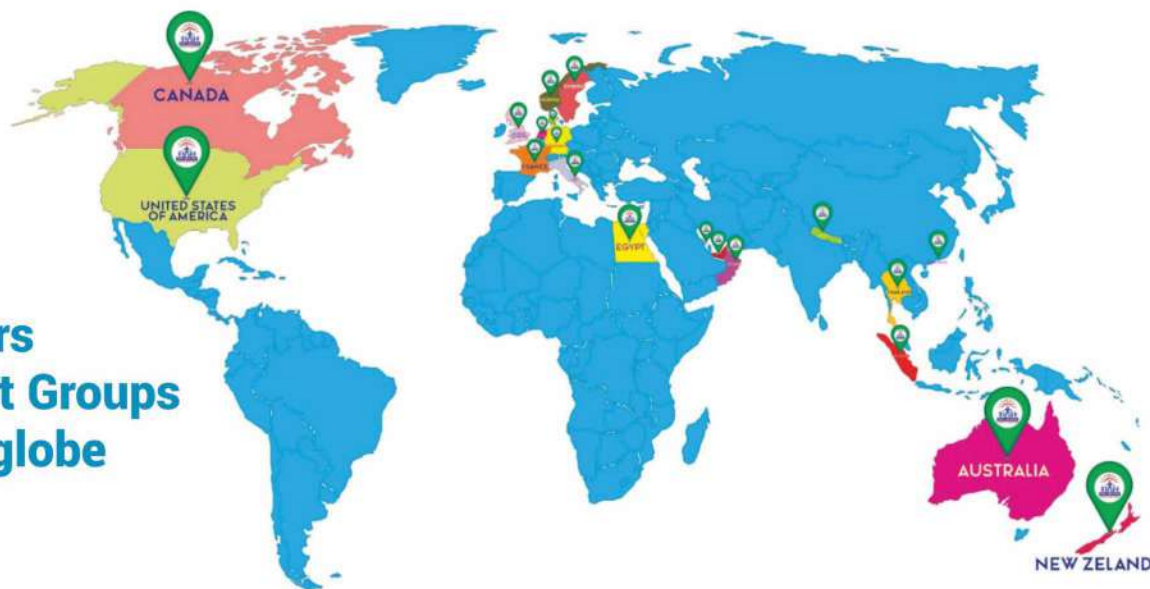


## EKAL VIDYALAYA FOUNDATION OF INDIA (EVFI)

Bringing Literacy, healthcare and economic prosperity to remote villages in Bharat with the support of Indian Diaspora abroad.

**Sponsor one Ekal Vidyalaya for a year @ INR 30,000**

**Our Chapters  
and Support Groups  
across the globe**



**Participate in Van Yatra:**

See yourself what Ekal is achieving with support from contributors.

**“JOIN HANDS FOR THE NOBLE CAUSE.”**

### **Ekal Vidyalaya Foundation of India**

Plot No.8, 1st Floor, Local Shopping Complex, Okhla Industrial Area, Phase-II,

New Delhi- 110 020 Phones: +91 11 4050 3331, 4050 3332

Email: [evfi.office@ekal.org](mailto:evfi.office@ekal.org) | Website: [www.ekal.org](http://www.ekal.org)





# 25th Ekal Study Circle

## Rural Innovation & Entrepreneurship for Viksit Bharat

**Theme: “Entrepreneurial Villages, Empowered Lives”**



The event on “Rural Innovation & Entrepreneurship for Viksit Bharat” organized by Ekal Sansthan brought together thought leaders, educators, entrepreneurs, and policy advocates to reflect on the rural transformation journey and chart new pathways for inclusive development through social entrepreneurship.

The session at the Constitution Club, New Delhi, began with a warm welcome by Ms. Jyotsana Sinha, member of Ekal Sansthan. The gathering witnessed an impactful screening of the Ekal Abhiyan film, offering deep insights into Ekal's pioneering work in over 100,000 villages. The film highlighted transformative grassroots efforts across a range of areas including village education, life skills and digital literacy, tailoring programs for women's empowerment, establishment of computer centers, sports-based motivation initiatives, environmental awareness campaigns, and cultural integration aligned with India's traditional ethos.

**Presentation by Sri Shankar Halder, President - Ekal Sansthan:** Sri Shankar Halder delivered an engaging presentation on the Ekal Abhiyan model, emphasizing the movement's efforts to bridge urban-rural divides by involving professionals and youth in village transformation. He stressed the importance of education that extends beyond standard curricula, the incorporation of modern technologies for inclusive rural development, and the necessity of ensuring access to government schemes and welfare benefits in villages. He also shed light on the role of Gramothan Resource Centers in promoting organic production, especially through locally made goods, and the growing significance of nutritional gardens in ensuring nutritional and ecological sustainability. Sri Halder concluded by highlighting how Ekal uses key performance indicators (KPIs) to regularly assess the impact of its initiatives across education, health, and livelihood sectors.

**Felicitation and MoU Signing Ceremony:** In a symbolic gesture of

respect and sustainability, guests were felicitated with mementoes and the college principals who signed MoU were gifted with Ekal Haldi packets and the Ekal syllabus books. A notable milestone of the event was the signing of Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) under the Rural Immersion Model, paving the way for structured collaboration between Ekal and higher education institutions to foster social entrepreneurship.

### MoUs were signed with:

1. **Indraprastha College for Women**  
Dr. Poonam Kumria (Principal)
2. **Zakir Hussain College -**  
Prof. Narender Singh represented by associate professor Saima .
3. **Daulat Ram College**  
Prof. Savita Roy (Principal)

Other participating and prospective institutions included Shivaji College, Rajdhani College, Deshbandhu College, IILM University, Shaheed Bhagat Singh College, and Dyal Singh College.

The MoU exchange took place in the presence of Dr. Ramandeep Kaur





(Convenor, Rural Immersion Program & Joint Secretary, Ekal Sansthan) and Prof. Manju Srivastava (Trustee & Chairperson, Ekal Abhiyan). The session was moderated by Sri Praveen Arya, who underscored the vital role that rural immersion and grassroots entrepreneurship must play in India's growth story.

**Guest Speakers and Thought Leaders:** Sri Yashwant Deshmukh, CEO of C-Voter, spoke about the urgent need for India to shift from a job-seeking to a job-creating mindset. He reflected on India's rich legacy as a nation of entrepreneurs and lamented how colonial-era shifts disrupted the country's self-sufficiency. Sri Deshmukh advocated for reviving India's tradition of rural entrepreneurship and making employment generation central to policy and civic thinking.

**Prof. Anand Ranganathan** (Special Centre for Molecular Medicine, Jawaharlal Nehru University) offered a thought-provoking perspective on India's progress, using what he called the "dual-lens of success." Under the positive lens, he highlighted India's spectacular strides over the past decade: substantial GDP growth, expanding infrastructure with over 20 metro-enabled cities and 148 airports, increased foreign exchange reserves, the rise of over 120,000 startups, improved GST collections, and strong growth in solar panel capacity and electronic exports. However, he cautioned that these achievements should not overshadow the critical areas still requiring attention.

*This 25th edition of the Ekal Study Circle reaffirmed the urgency to align rural India with national development goals, and highlighted the untapped potential of grassroots innovation and entrepreneurship. The gathering symbolized a powerful convergence of civil society, academia, students and grassroots leaders, all committed to building a Viksit Bharat by 2047 through empowered villages and resilient communities.*



Looking through the negative lens, he critiqued the vagueness around citizen roles in realizing the vision of Viksit Bharat @2047. He pointed to outdated workforce development strategies, especially for the 44% of Indians still dependent on rural livelihoods, and emphasized the state's need to adopt more adaptive, forward-looking frameworks. Prof. Ranganathan passionately argued for reversing the trend of urban migration by making villages attractive centers of opportunity, dignity, and innovation.

**Prof. Vivek Kumar** (Head of Department, Centre for Rural Development & Technology and Co-Convenor, Unnat Bharat Abhiyan) delved deeply into India's intrinsic rural ingenuity and entrepreneurial heritage. Drawing from anecdotal examples, he spoke about the sharp marketing skills often observed in small village shops—skills honed through experience rather than formal business education. He emphasized that the lens through which rural opportunities are viewed often depends on one's perspective and social context. Prof. Vivek made a compelling case for understanding the psychology and

sociology of rural communities, noting that behaviors such as self-sanitation, long practiced in villages, were only adopted by cities during the COVID pandemic. He also highlighted major gaps in existing government policies and manuals, particularly their failure to address the nuanced support systems required for rural entrepreneurs. According to him, Self-Help Groups (SHGs) have not been effectively channeled due to a lack of detailed, actionable guidelines. Prof. Vivek concluded by applauding the resilience of rural societies, especially during the COVID crisis, when many large enterprises faltered while village systems held firm. He called for a more structured and holistic ecosystem to nurture village-based enterprises and social entrepreneurs.

#### **Closing & Acknowledgements:**

The vote of thanks was delivered by Sri Abhimanyu Popli, vice president of Ekal Sansthan, followed by an open forum moderated by Sri Prateek Khatri, which fostered a lively exchange of ideas and collaborative commitments.

Special appreciation was extended to the dedicated Ekal team members who made the event possible: Sri Nitin Singhal, Sri Prateek Gulati, Sri Prem Assudani, Sri Niket Srivastava, Sri Siddhartha, and Sri Ram Kumar. ■

**Dr. Ramandeep Kaur**

Joint Secretary-Ekal Sansthan &  
Associate Prof-IITM Janakpuri







# FTS Indore Makes History with Tribal and Chess Park Firsts



FTS is committed to uplifting rural India, tirelessly working to bridge the gap between urban and rural landscapes. Now, taking a ground-breaking step forward. A new chapter in cultural and recreational innovation was written on April 26, 2025 with the grand inauguration of India's first Tribal Park and Central India's first-ever Chess Park in Indore.

The unique part about this park is that the models and tables are made up of scrap materials. This pioneering initiative not only celebrates the rich heritage of our tribal communities but also promotes the timeless game of strategy, Chess right in the heart of nature.

The Tribal Park is a celebration of the extraordinary work that Ekal has been doing, showcasing its impact in transforming rural India. The park will feature a model of the Ekal Vidyalaya (Ekal Schools), Ekal on Wheels and more highlighting how these initiatives are creating lasting change in villages across the country. The goal is simple but profound - raising awareness about Ekal's mission and inspiring individuals to join the movement, ensuring that rural communities receive the opportunities they deserve. \* The inauguration ceremony was graced by the Mayor Sri Pushya Mitra Bhargav, along with FTS National Working President Sri Ramesh Maheshwari, FTS Indore President Sri Ramavtar Jaju, Smt. Geeta Mundra, Smt. Vinita Jaju, and the members of the Mahila Samiti and Yuva team, whose enthusiasm lit up the entire event.

With immense pride and vision for a smarter city, the Mayor expressed his heartfelt joy and announced a ground-breaking move - five more parks in the city will be transformed into dedicated Chess Parks. In a bold step to nurture intellectual play and community engagement, an expansive Chess Zone is also set to be developed within Madhya Pradesh's largest park.

This is more than just a park, it's a movement. A celebration of our roots. A salute to strategy and wisdom. And most importantly, a gift to the community that brings generations together. ■



Mayor Pushya Mitra Bhargav observing the chess board.

**Ranu Jain**  
National Coordinator Social Media,  
FTS Yuva





# Turning Mirrors into Windows

**“The whole purpose of education is to turn mirrors into windows.” – Sydney J. Harris**



This powerful quote by American journalist Sydney J. Harris has resonated deeply with me. A mirror simply reflects

what is already visible, offering little beyond the surface. A window, however, opens to the unknown - inviting fresh air, new perspectives, and the promise of possibilities yet to be discovered. At its core, education must do just that: broaden horizons, shift internal paradigms, and connect us to a world much larger than ourselves.

True education is not merely about information or degrees. It is about awakening curiosity, nurturing empathy, encouraging independent thought, and cultivating the courage to step beyond our familiar confines. It teaches us to question, to understand, and to act with integrity. Most importantly, it helps us view the world not only as it is but as it can be. As someone who believes passionately in the transformative power of grassroots education, I feel privileged to support the One Teacher School Movement of Ekal Vidyalaya. Many of my friends in Boston are already deeply involved in this cause, and I have aligned myself with their efforts with full heart and purpose.

Earlier this year, I traveled to India and had the opportunity to witness the impact of Ekal Vidyalaya firsthand. My destination was the Badali Ekal School in Baripada Anchal, Bada Sahi Sanch. After a five-hour drive from Bhubaneswar, I arrived on a cloudy, windy Sunday afternoon, February 23rd. Fatigue from travel was quickly replaced by emotion and gratitude as I

received a warm, traditional welcome from the teachers—with an aarti and heartfelt smiles that reflected pride and dedication.

The school itself was set up under a simple thatched structure, lovingly built by the villagers. Seated cross-legged were rows of children—serene, disciplined, and curious. Their quiet presence was moving. These children, so young yet so rooted in sanskars (values), embodied the soul of what Ekal stands for. One of the cornerstones of Ekal's philosophy is Sanskar Shiksha—value-based education. As per tradition, I was invited to light a ceremonial lamp before Goddess Saraswati, followed by prayers sung by the children in Sanskrit, Hindi, and Odia. It was a beautiful confluence of devotion and discipline.

Thanks to my gracious guide Iti Mishra, I also met the Anchal-level leadership and village stakeholders. Although many villages now have government schools, Ekal continues to supplement them—especially by providing committed teachers in remote, underserved areas. Programs like telemedicine and computer literacy haven't yet reached this particular school, but the commitment to value-based learning, hygiene awareness, and organic farming was strong and consistent.

My favorite part, as always, was interacting with the children. Their joy was infectious. Through songs, skits, moral stories, and even exercise demonstrations, they showcased their learning with confidence and pride. In



Ms. Manorama Choudhury with villagers and children

their giggles and stories, I found a timeless truth: when the child in us meets the child in them, magic happens. As dusk fell and the village slipped into darkness, we began preparing to leave. A likely power outage was met with calm acceptance. Before parting, we captured many memories in photographs, hoping to preserve the warmth of that day.

What lingered most in my heart was the children's unfiltered eagerness to learn—not out of competition, but from pure joy and curiosity. Unlike urban children surrounded by screens and toys, these children found happiness in learning and play that was simple, grounded, and real. One fact struck me deeply—many of these children had never seen a train or a bus. This revelation stayed with me. If education is meant to open windows, what might it mean for these children to look out onto the wider world?

Because, after all, sometimes a single window can change a life. ■

**Manorama Choudhury**  
USA







## Our Ekal Pilgrimage Through Bihar's Heartland

My wife Neela and I recently undertook a 5-day 'Ekal Pilgrimage' through the remote rural-tribal regions of Bihar. It did feel like a pilgrimage right from the moment we landed in Bodh Gaya, the sacred starting point of our journey into the vibrant landscape of the Ekal Vidyalaya Foundation (EVF). We were fired by the desire to witness the real impact of Ekal's work: to see how our own contributions were making a difference to educational and social projects at the grassroots level. We also wanted to understand the ground realities of the communities Ekal was serving. Our itinerary was thoughtfully curated and executed by Sri Bhaskar Sharma, Executive Director of Ekal Gramoththan Foundation in India, with logistical support from Sri Himanshu Mehra. This arm of Ekal Vidyalaya implements skill training in the villages. To our delight, Sri Bhaskar even flew in from Delhi to personally accompany us to the various projects we had helped sponsor. His presence and dedication added a meaningful dimension to our visit.

Each day of our journey took us deep into remote regions that constantly pushed our physical comfort zones. I was reminded of my early days as a Civil Engineer posted in a small village near Ankaleshwar in Gujarat. The lack of basic infrastructure and the hardships I had seen back then were the same we encountered on this trip, 55 years later. It was a poignant reminder of the continued need for rural development and reaffirmed our deep commitment to Ekal. In Tekari (about 1.5 hours from Bodh Gaya), we visited

a 'Tailoring Training Center', and in Kabar, we had the honor of inaugurating a new 'Women Empowerment Center'—offering training in tailoring, beautician work—that our family had sponsored.

We had two state-level Ekal coordinators, Sri Ranjan Kumari and Sri Bholanath Mishra, accompanying us throughout this visit. We also learned much from Susri Kiran Agrawal and Susri Nalini Rathod, dedicated custodians of Ekal's vision in Bihar. With their support, we had the opportunity to meet several local and state officials and gain deeper insight into the regional needs. One bright moment came when some girls at the Women Empowerment Center asked, "If Uncle is from Gujarat and Auntie from Maharashtra, what brought you to Bihar?" Our reply was simple: "We wanted to bring empowerment where it was needed the most."

In regions where functional literacy barely exists, Ekal schools offer a precious first taste of learning, igniting aspirations. Many Ekal alumni now hold respected local positions and have returned to serve the movement. Sri Ranjan Kumar, our guide, is himself a proud Ekal alumnus. Another well-known former student is Susri Pinki Karmakar, who carried the torch for India at the London Olympics. The Ekal school operates wherever the villagers offer the space for it. Despite working with the barest minimum of resources and infrastructure, it was admirable to see the Ekal teacher's and volunteer's unwavering commitment to the Ekal



Visitors enjoying their time with villagers and children

vision. It was especially inspiring to learn how our training centers are transforming the lives of rural girls. Many of them now earn ₹3,500–₹5,000/month through part-time work. At Tekari, 250 girls have completed their certification over the past three years. Another 150–200 are expected to graduate in the next year and a half. At Kabar, Susri Jyoti Kavar manages the tailoring center with passion and has exciting plans for beautician training. Currently, she is training 30–35 girls with a vision for more.

It was evident through our travels that though Bihar has faced significant developmental challenges, over the past decade, signs of progress have begun to emerge—thanks in part to voluntary organization like Ekal. Seeing all this made me realize that no matter how many articles I've written or campaigns I've run for Ekal in the U.S., nothing compares to seeing Ekal in action on the ground. This enlightening pilgrimage brought us close to the soul of Bharat—its people, its challenges and its unbreakable spirit. ■

**Prakash Waghmare**  
Ekal-USA, Media Committee





## MATMUR JAMOH



### A BRAVE TRIBAL HERO AND FREEDOM FIGHTER

“Freedom was not merely a dream—it was a goal for which countless unsung tribal heroes laid down their lives.”

The story of India's freedom struggle is often told through the lens of its mainstream heroes, but the tribal communities of Northeast India played a crucial, though often overlooked, role. Among them was Veer Matmur Jamoh, a fearless tribal leader from Arunachal Pradesh who stood against British colonialism with unmatched courage.

The Northeast, comprising states like Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura, and Sikkim, contributed significantly to the freedom movement. Before the arrival of the British, the region consisted of independent tribal communities and sovereign states. For example, the Ahom Kingdom resisted Mughal invasions for centuries and remained independent until the British annexed it in 1826. Similarly, communities in the Khasi, Jaintia, and Garo Hills maintained their unique governance systems and cultural autonomy.

As the British extended their influence through coercive treaties and military interventions, resistance from

indigenous groups began to intensify. By the late 19th century, much of the region had been brought under colonial control, triggering waves of rebellion.

In this climate of unrest, Matmur Jamoh emerged as a defiant voice. Born in the late 19th century in Yagrung village of present-day East Siang district, he belonged to the Adi tribe, part of the Tani tribal group. Deeply committed to his community's values and traditions, Jamoh was raised as a proud and independent warrior.

The British began asserting more aggressive control over the tribal belts in the early 20th century, imposing heavy taxes and disrupting local governance. In 1911, British officer Noel Williamson was dispatched to Arunachal Pradesh to reinforce colonial authority. His attempts to extract unjust taxes were met with growing anger among tribal communities.

Matmur Jamoh organized and mobilized his people, highlighting that their struggle was not only for economic justice but also for preserving their sovereignty. Armed with traditional weapons, including bows and arrows, Jamoh led a daring assault on the British contingent. In the clash, Noel Williamson and several British soldiers

were killed. This marked one of the first organized tribal rebellions in the region, deeply alarming the colonial establishment.

In retaliation, the British launched a harsh crackdown. They attacked Yagrung and surrounding villages, committing atrocities against innocent villagers. After intense resistance during the Battles of Kekar Monying and Kebang, Jamoh was eventually captured. On April 2, 1912, he was tried by a military court, sentenced to life imprisonment, and deported to the infamous Cellular Jail in the Andaman Islands.

Despite enduring brutal torture, Matmur Jamoh never renounced his ideals. He continued to raise awareness among fellow prisoners about their rights and resistance. To this day, the circumstances of his death remain unknown.

More than just a revolutionary, Jamoh was a tactician who taught his people guerrilla warfare rooted in tribal wisdom—ambushes, strategic use of terrain, covert communication, and intelligence gathering. His efforts challenged British forces and inspired a growing spirit of unity and pride among the Tani tribes.

Though largely absent from mainstream narratives, his contribution is an essential part of Arunachal Pradesh's historical legacy. His resistance sparked a cultural and political awakening that continues to influence the region.

Today, Veer Matmur Jamoh's story remains a source of pride and inspiration for the people of Northeast India. His heroism and sacrifice form a golden chapter in India's freedom saga.

“The struggles of countless heroes like Veer Matmur Jamoh are the foundation of our freedom.” ■

**Source:** Internet and Wikipedia





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