



# EKAL

## IN THE SACRED DUST OF BRAJ



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# EKAL PRAYAS

A Family Magazine With Social Concern

July-August, 2025 Vol-16 No. 3 ₹ 50/-

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## Awake, Arise and Achieve



Dear Reader,

"Ekal in the Dust of Braj" has deeply worked on themes like education and values, self-reliance, social unity, and awareness, glimpses of which will be seen in this edition's Ground Zero Report. Ekal's growing presence in the Nuh region is a promising sign from a social perspective.

Under Ekal Sansthan's college outreach programme, 28 children from Ekal Vidyalayas of the Palwal region stayed for four days at Daulat Ram College, University of Delhi, where they received information related to higher education and learned basic experiments by visiting various laboratories. I extend my heartfelt appreciation to the college administration and entire staff for the success of this innovative initiative.

Thanks to the efforts of the country's illustrious Prime Minister, Sri Narendra Modi, yoga has been embraced globally, symbolizing the worldwide acceptance of India's cultural heritage. Within the Ekal Abhiyan framework, 88,346 yoga programmes were conducted across 11 divisions, with 1,00,18,832 villagers participating under the banner of Ekal. This reflects not just the strength of the campaign, but also the collective power of rural India. Not only in India, but Ekal chapters abroad also celebrated International Yoga Day with great enthusiasm.

The takeaways from the coordination meeting of the Ekal Shrihari National Women's Committee will undoubtedly further strengthen the organization. Similarly, in the central team meeting of the Ekal Aarogya Project, future expansion plans along with suggestions for improvement and training were presented to the karyakartas, which will help shape the direction of the project in the coming days.

This month, the passing of Shivkumar Chaudhary - a tireless warrior of the Ekal movement and a symbol of service and compassion has deeply shocked us all. Late Chaudhary left an indelible mark through his foresight and leadership. The entire Ekal family stands with his family in this hour of grief and prays to the Almighty for the peace of his soul.

Smt Sonal Rasiwasia, with her gentle, simple, and artistic personality, adds strength to the organization through her resilience and active participation. Learning about her life inspires a spirit of dedication among karyakartas.

Apart from this, Ekal's work continues to progress steadily through organizational meetings and social activities. Until we meet again in the next edition...

Yours  
**Manju Didi**  
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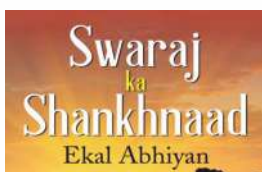
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Published and Printed by Manju Srivastava from 1st Floor, Plot No 8, Local Shopping Complex, Okhla Phase-II, New Delhi - 110 020. Owner: Ekal Sansthan Printed at - Viba Press Pvt. Ltd., C - 66/3 Okhla Industrial Area - II, New Delhi - 20. Editor - Manju Srivastava. All rights reserved. Reproduction in any form with written permission only. All disputes are subject to the jurisdiction of competent Courts in Delhi/New Delhi only.





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**Continued...**

In raising funds for Ekal, Shyam ji and Sri Madan Babu received support from their Sangh colleagues - Sri Mangilal Jain, Sri Ashok Modi, and Sri Ramesh Saraogi. When Shyam ji approached people in Kolkata for donations, he faced difficulty convincing them that Ekal schools were operating in distant regions like Vishnupur and Chakapad in Odisha. Many simply did not believe that such schools actually

schools in harsh and challenging conditions, they were moved and readily agreed to contribute to the cause. Today, these same Ekal schools have crossed national borders and expanded to foreign lands, having started as a humble idea in Kolkata.

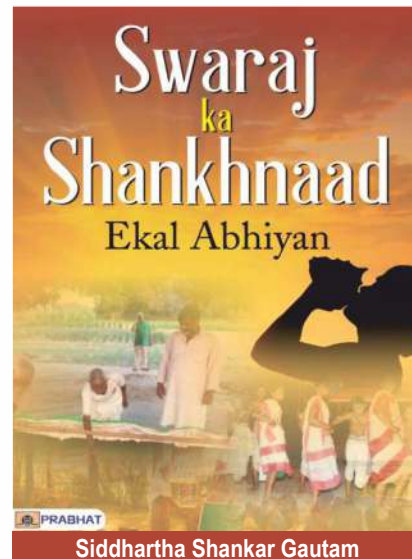
The process of collecting funds eventually led to the establishment of the Nagar Sangathan in urban areas. Its



## The Economic and Social Base of the Organisation

existed. Eventually, Shyam ji proposed that some affluent individuals from Kolkata should visit the vanvasi (tribal) areas where these Ekal schools had been established. Consequently, a group of wealthy individuals—including Sri P. D. Chitlangaya, Sri Ashok Modi, Sri Ramesh Saraogi, Sri Sajjan Bansal, Sri Sajjan Bhajanka, and Manju Didi—accompanied Shyam ji to these remote areas. Upon witnessing firsthand the functioning of the Ekal

purpose was to mobilise urban elites for financial support while instilling organisational discipline within Ekal's functioning. The urban supporters of Ekal remain deeply committed to offering various forms of assistance to the mission. The Ekal team selected influential and well-resourced individuals from cities and brought them onto a committee responsible for guiding various economic and administrative activities. In major cities across different



zones, chapters of the mission were established to engage affluent and influential individuals. This approach became known as “chapter working.” A notable industrialist from Mumbai, Sri Rameshwar Lal Kabra (affectionately called Bapu ji), played a pivotal role in expanding these chapters across India's metropolitan hubs.

Each chapter primarily focuses on collecting funds for Ekal. Its members ensure that the funds are utilised effectively. Every chapter operates through two wings - one monitors financial discipline, and the other evaluates the quality of Ekal schools and Sanskar Kendras, ensuring that donations are used for their intended purposes. For transparency, each chapter functions under a coordination committee established for each zone. Currently, Ekal's Nagar Sangathan is active in 60 major Indian cities and operates through eight registered entities:

1. **Vanbandhu Parishad (Friends of the Tribal Society):** Responsible for running Ekal schools across India, except in North India.





2. **Bharat Lok Shiksha Parishad:** Manages Ekal schools in North India and oversees the Nagar Sangathan.
3. **Ekal Vidyalaya Foundation of India:** Coordinates Ekal's international operations.
4. **Shreehari Satsang Samiti:** Focuses on the moral and ethical aspects of Ekal schools and maintains its own structure in urban areas.
5. **Vanvasi Raksha Parivar Foundation:** A part of the Shreehari Satsang Samiti, based in Delhi, functioning as the Nagar Sangathan for Delhi.
6. **Aarogya Foundation of India:** Supervises health-related projects across selected regions of India and runs its own organisational structure.
7. **Ekal Gramotthan Foundation:** Directs initiatives under the Gramotthan Yojana (village development programme) and manages village resource centres aimed at fostering self-sufficiency.
8. **Ekal Sansthan:** Acts as a bridge between mainstream society and the Ekal mission, while also focusing on research and innovation.

The second organisational pillar of Ekal Abhiyan is the **Gram Sangathan** (rural organisation). This network connects communities speaking various regional languages to the Ekal mission. It establishes registered Ekal units in rural areas to help villagers stay rooted in and proud of their religious and cultural heritage. Ekal strongly promotes local leadership and community involvement. While anyone domestic or international - can donate to Ekal, rural committees are composed of local members who ensure the efficient functioning of Ekal schools. These committees even select the schoolteachers and serve as the schools' guardian councils, closely monitoring students and teachers to ensure quality education. When a system operates with such thoroughness, success naturally follows.

Ekal has expanded traditional four-dimensional education into a five-dimensional model and functions like a large, united family by making value-based and ethical education compulsory in its schools. The Shreehari Satsang Samiti works hand in hand with Ekal schools to ensure that both students and teachers remain connected to cultural values. This monumental task would not have been possible without the Satsang Samiti's support. To achieve its goals, the Ekal Abhiyan had to evolve into a broader



Villagers engaged in organic farming

initiative, giving rise to Vanbandhu Abhiyan and other allied organisations - each functioning independently but united in purpose.

What makes these organisations unique is that although their operations, economic structures, and urban frameworks are entirely autonomous, they work in perfect harmony. This synergy has matured to such an extent that they celebrate each other's achievements with no rivalry among them.

Today, Ekal is no longer confined to promoting literacy—it also provides vocational training. Children in Ekal schools are taught to make organic fertilizers and conserve water. As awareness among villagers has increased, Ekal has begun involving them in health initiatives like the Aarogya scheme and in generating additional employment. Ekal also plays an important role in educating villagers about government schemes and how to benefit from them. In simple terms, Ekal has evolved from an education-centric mission into a movement for self-sustaining village development. Ekal schools have now become rural development centres—guiding villages toward a prosperous and self-reliant future.

(To be Continued...)



Girls at a tailoring center learning to draft dress patterns on paper





# An Embodiment of Service and Compassion: Late Sri Shivkumar Chaudhary

There are certain individuals in this world whose noble acts of service to humanity and society render them immortal. Late Sri Shivkumar Chaudhary was one such exceptional soul, eternally dedicated to altruism and selfless service. His life was a beacon of inspiration for many. A true symbol of compassion and simplicity, the beloved and renowned industrialist affectionately known as Babuji will forever live in the hearts of all who knew him.

Sri Shivkumar Chaudhary was born on August 28, 1952, in his ancestral village Behl, Haryana. His journey of action began in Haryana and extended to Kolkata, Surat, and Indore. All his siblings have been associated with national and social service, especially in the field of education, where the family has made a significant contribution. In Kolkata, he was closely associated with Vanbandhu Parishad.

In 1997, he established Pratibha Synthetics Pvt. Ltd. in Pithampur, Indore. Despite his resounding success as an industrialist, Sri Chaudhary's heart always remained committed to service, education, values, and national welfare. Even at the pinnacle of achievement, he never harbored even a trace of ego. His humility and gentle demeanor earned him love and respect nationwide. His sweet-natured personality made him a beloved figure not only in Indore but throughout the country.



Through his foresight and diligence, he achieved great success in both his business and social initiatives. Through Vanbandhu Parishad, he played an active role in supporting education and healthcare for underprivileged tribal communities - an endeavor he considered a noble form of national service. His home was always open to all Ekal Abhiyan karyakartas, irrespective of their role or stature.

He also inspired and encouraged his wife, Smt. Sushma Chaudhary, to join him in the work of Vanbandhu Parishad. He persistently motivated her to take a proactive role. In April 2011, Sri Chaudhary was appointed President of Vanbandhu Parishad, Indore, a role in which he served with energy and compassion for the next seven years. Visionary initiatives like

“Sabka Ho Apna Ghar” were a testament to his foresight and benevolent thinking.

His life truly exemplified the Vedic ideal - “Tanme Manah Shiva Sankalpamastu” (“May my mind be filled with auspicious and noble resolve”).

Sri Shivkumar Chaudhary was a pure-hearted seeker, a devoted servant of the nation, and an upholder of dharma, whose towering persona was like a mighty banyan tree, offering shelter and strength to countless lives. No matter the scale of crisis anywhere in the country, Babuji was always among the first to respond with thoughtful concern and generous support. His legacy will forever echo in the hearts of countless volunteers and members of organizations he supported.

On June 17, 2025, after a prolonged illness, Sri Chaudhary's mortal journey came to an end as he became one with the Divine. His demise has left the entire Ekal family deeply grieved. In this moment of profound sorrow, we join his family in praying to the Almighty to grant peace to his noble soul and give us all the strength and fortitude to bear this loss. ■

**Grieving,**  
The Entire Ekal Family



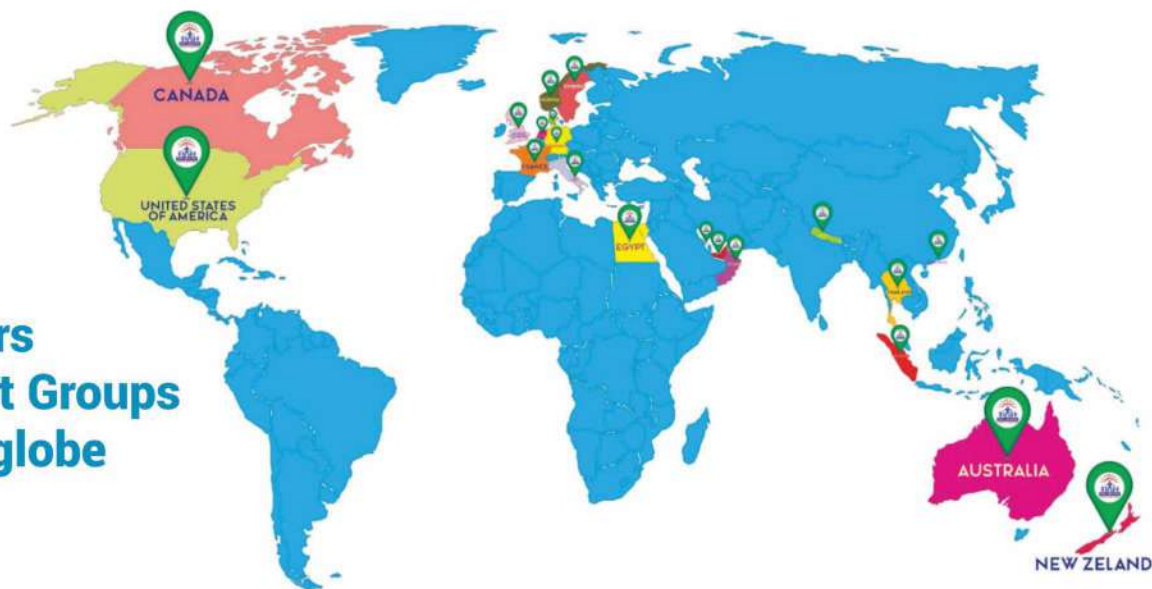


## EKAL VIDYALAYA FOUNDATION OF INDIA (EVFI)

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The recent military confrontation of Bharat with Pakistan, avenging the heinous Pahalgam massacre, was not limited to the battlefield alone, it was also being waged on cultural, symbolic, and moral fronts. In this multifaceted conflict, Bharat not only secured a strategic victory over Pakistan, but also emerged triumphant in terms of moral superiority and soft power. By upholding democratic values, showcasing unity in diversity, and maintaining ethical restraint despite

and evoke strong emotional responses. In the Bharat–Pakistan conflict, Bharat deployed symbolism as both a strategic and cultural weapon—shaping narratives, asserting ethical authority, and reinforcing collective national consciousness.

The name Operation Sindoor itself carried rich symbolic meaning. It was not merely the codename for a military action—it was a culturally layered, emotionally charged, and politically powerful statement. Sindoor, the red

The presence of two women officers, Colonel Sophia Qureshi from the Bharat Army and Wing Commander Vyomika Singh from the Bharat Air Force, in the press conference, held to announce the details of Operation Sindoor, also carried a deeply symbolic message. This signified, powerfully, that the women of Bharat are not just victims—they are the embodiment of Goddess Durga and Chandi, capable of responding fiercely to terrorism, injustice, and Adharma.

# OPERATION SINDOOR

A BATTLE WHERE  
DHARMA VANQUISHED ADHARMA

provocation, Bharat raised the flag of its principled strength and civilizational confidence before the world. Operation Sindoor was, in essence, a battle where Dharma triumphed over Adharma.

According to the discipline of semiotics—the science of signs and symbols—symbols play a deeply significant role in warfare. Wars today are not fought with weapons alone, but also with metaphors, cultural references, symbols and classical imagery. As Charles Sanders Peirce, a pioneer in semiotics, emphasized, symbols are not mere embellishments; they are instruments of legitimacy, persuasion and power. They reflect a nation's collective consciousness and ideological core, validate its actions, unify its people,

vermillion traditionally worn by married Hindu women, symbolizes purity, devotion, protection, and sanctity in Bharatiya culture. Just as sindoor reflects a husband's vow to safeguard his wife, this operation became a metaphorical pledge by the Bharat state to protect its citizens.

Moreover, the term sindoor invoked national unity, especially among Bharatiya women, who saw the operation as a symbolic extension of their dignity and collective strength. The red colour of sindoor also stands for valour, sacrifice, and heroism—qualities exemplified by the Bharat Armed Forces. By naming the mission Sindoor, Bharat wove together its civilizational pride with the ethical legitimacy of military action.

Dressed in their military uniforms, both officers not only shared the technical aspects of the operation but also powerfully conveyed that Bharat women are not just active on the battlefield, but are also competent and empowered on strategic and diplomatic fronts.

The joint appearance of Colonel Sophia Qureshi, a Muslim, and Wing Commander Vyomika Singh, a Hindu, symbolized Bharat's religious unity. It was a resounding rebuttal to the terrorists' attempts to divide people along religious lines during the Pahalgam attack.

Amidst the escalating tensions, Prime Minister Modi invoked one of





Bharat's most iconic moral figures—Lord Buddha, the great symbol of peace and compassion. Sending a message to the world, he declared: "Bharat has given the world not Yuddha (war), but Buddha." He reminded global audiences that this was not the time for Yuddha, but for the wisdom of Buddha.

Yet, he made it equally clear that peace is sustained by strength. Bharat neither seeks war nor fears it. It desires peace but will go to any extent to protect its borders and its people. In doing so, Bharat positioned itself as a country of restraint but not one to be provoked.

To ethically contextualize its military actions, Bharat turned to another powerful symbol, the Bhagavad Gita, a foundational philosophical and spiritual text. A much-cited verse "Yada yada hi dharmasya glanir bhavati Bharata." was effectively invoked. Bharat's response was not merely strategic, PM Modi emphasized in an address, but a righteous intervention to uphold and protect Dharma against Adharma. Here, Dharma does not refer to religion, but to righteousness and justice, while Adharma refers to injustice, personified in demonic terrorist forces who kill innocent civilians, and their military patrons across the border. The framing turned military retaliation into a moral imperative.

To inspire the armed forces and rally the public, another powerful symbol—the Shiva Tandava Stotra, was invoked. This hymn, played in a musical format, during the briefing of Operation Sindoor, is a divine ode to Lord Shiva's cosmic dance of destruction. It signified righteous fury, moral clarity, and spiritual strength. It served as a war hymn, more than a religious recitation, invoking courage, divine support, and cultural rootedness. It represented Bharat's balanced, disciplined approach and its

commitment to destroy the evil forces for the larger good of humanity, echoing Shiva's role as the cosmic protector and destroyer of tyranny. The rhythmic and musical rendition of this Stotra elevated, undoubtedly, the morale of the soldiers and garnered public support.

Language and literature also hold symbolic significance, playing a powerful role in communication and messaging. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, in a calculated display of moral clarity, declared that Bharat's war was not with Pakistan's people - but with terror and its architects. Quoting from the Ramcharit-manas by Tulsidas, he said: "Jin mohimaara / tin mohi maare" - We struck only those (the terrorists), who attacked us first - exhibiting both ethical restraint and unwavering resolve.

Our national sentiment was further elevated when Bharatiya Army officials quoted verses of renowned Hindi poet Ramdhari Singh Dinkar: "Hit-vachan nahin tune maana/ Maitri ka moolya napehchaana/ Yachna nahi, ab ran hoga/ Jeevan-jay ya ki maranhoga", which means "You did not heed kind words, nor valued friendship... Now, no more appeals. There will be war. Either victory, or death."

This was not just poetic flair—it was a rhetorical strike. It told the world that Bharat is a peace-seeking nation and desires friendship, but also recognizes the bitter truth that "Bhay binuhoye na preeti"— i.e. without deterrence evil cannot be tamed. There can be no peace without fear.

Prime Minister Modi also invoked the fierce words of Guru Gobind Singh: "Sava lakh se ek ladaun" (Each one of ours can take on 125,000 people). This was both a tribute and a morale booster

for Bharat's soldiers, each of whom is worth an army.

Even Bharat's military arsenal's names echoed our civilizational values, symbolizing righteousness and justice. The Sudarshan (S-400 air defense system), which foiled missile strikes on Bharatn cities, was named after the divine discus, of Lord Vishnu—used for destroying Adharma (evil and injustice) and uphold Dharma (righteousness and justice). Likewise, the BrahMos missile, which razed terrorist and military targets, was likened to the Brahmastra—a weapon of unstoppable precision and divine origin.

Contrast this with Pakistan's missile names: Babur, Ghauri, Ghazni—all named after fanatic invaders and plunderers, individuals with a jihadi mindset, reflecting the immoral ideological foundations of the Pakistani military and state.

In the present conflict, Bharat secured more than just a tactical victory, affirming a profound moral triumph. By invoking ancient scriptures, timeless poetry, spiritual traditions, and civilizational symbolism, Bharat showcased that its strength lies not only in firepower, but in the force of its values. Even amidst the roar of battle, it spoke in the voice of peace. Even in calibrated retaliation, it remained anchored in Dharma. Missiles may have lit the sky, but so did mantras, metaphors, and moral conviction. In this confluence of symbolism and strategy, Bharat stood not merely as a sovereign state exercising power - but as a timeless principle upholding Dharma. ■

**Prof. Niranjan Kumar**

*(Prof. Niranjan Kumar is the Chairman, Value Addition Courses Committee and a Senior Professor at Delhi University. He can be reached @NiranjanKIndia)*







The moment the name Brajbhoomi is mentioned, a divine image of Radha and Krishna's eternal union forms in our hearts

and minds. However, the social fabric of this devotion-filled land has evolved in a way that appears deeply interwoven with caste and community divisions. The Ekal Abhiyan has worked to break these rigidities in the Brajmandal region, uniting all in a common thread of harmony. Through its focused efforts in areas such as education and values, health, awareness, social security, self-reliance, and cooperation, it has continued to enrich and preserve the fragrance of Braj's sacred soil.

Under the Ekal Abhiyan, 3,480 Ekal Vidyalayas are being operated across 296 Sanchs in 27 Anchals of the Brajmandal region, where 51,295 boys and 51,272 girls are receiving value-based education. In this region, 1,857 farmers are practicing organic farming in their fields, while, encouraged by Ekal volunteers, 3,854 Poshan Vatikas (nutrition gardens) have been established across the division.

The spiritual current of devotion flows through the region with the help of two Ekal Srihari Raths. The Sri Krishna Katha Training Centre is nurturing rural storytellers (Vanvasi Vyas Kathakaars) to take forward the legacy of cultural narratives.

In 180 Ekal Vidyalayas across six Sanchs, a successful innovation—e-Shiksha through tablets—is underway. 160 Ekal educators are actively motivating village communities to embrace the path of education.

In the Nuh Anchal, two sewing training centres are working to empower women towards self-reliance. In two Sanchs, Ekal Arogya Foundation



# EKAL IN THE SACRED DUST OF BRAJ

of India is addressing the health needs of villagers through its Arogya initiatives.

During my visit, I witnessed not only the multifaceted educational efforts of the Ekal Abhiyan in the region, but also the broader social trans-

formations taking place through its work. I have attempted to document my observations just as I saw them.

I am confident that this report will offer a heartening glimpse into the vibrant spirit of the Ekal Abhiyan in the Brajmandal region.





## Winds of Change Through Sanskar-Based Education in Ekal Vidyalaya

Imagine visiting a village and seeing the walls of its humble mud and brick houses adorned with inspiring slogans. Foreexample:

“The message of  
Swami Vivekananda,  
A beautiful, glorious Bharat.”

Or

“Tulsi is the mother of the world,  
Tied to both nation and dharma.”

Or

“Let’s grow a nutrition garden,  
And eat radish, carrot, fenugreek,  
and spinach.”

Now imagine a group of children sitting under a tree, studying or performing yoga. What would your first thought be?

You might find yourself wondering, who is making this possible in the village?

The answer lies in the quiet yet powerful presence of Ekal Vidyalayas. The slogans mentioned above are written on the walls of every household in the village of Bahadur Kesarpur Dyuni, located in Pauta Sanch of Pilibhit Anchal. They were hand-written by a 40-year-old Ekal Acharya, Ms. Premvati.



Ekal students playing games at the Ekal Vidyalaya operating in village Ghatampur, Abhaypur of the Bareilly region

Associated with Ekal for the past ten years, Premvati has won the hearts of every resident in the village with her dedication, management skills, and unwavering spirit.

When I visited the village along with Ekal workers, I witnessed a fourth-grade student, Mahendra Pal, confidently reciting the 17 times multiplication table. On my request, little Manvi from class one recited the Hindi alphabet. Around 30 children attend this Ekal Vidyalaya, and even those enrolled in government schools come here regularly. Ekal keeps them rooted in their cultural and moral values.

Whether it’s value-based education or physical activities, the Ekal Acharya pays close attention to each child. A member of the Gram Samiti also oversees daily school

activities to ensure quality is maintained. If any child stops attending, committee members personally visit their homes to follow up. The villagers are proud and grateful to have an Ekal Vidyalaya in their village.

During my field visit, I also saw an Ekal Vidyalaya in the village of Ghatampur, under Abhaypur Sanch in Bareilly Anchal, where 20-year-old Ekal Acharya, Ms. Prachi, teaches 30 children. The school has been running in Ghatampur since 2012.

It has been consistently observed that wherever Ekal Vidyalayas operate, the children are more disciplined, value-oriented, and better rooted in their family and cultural traditions. Unlike the modern education system, students in Ekal schools also excel in activities such as games, yoga, and pranayama.

## Educational Innovation through the e-Shiksha Revolution

The Abhaypur Sanch of Bareilly Anchal is an e-Shiksha Sanch, where a significant innovation in rural education is unfolding. Since May 2014, 30 Ekal Vidyalayas under this Sanch have been imparting education to children through tablets. To witness this initiative firsthand, I visited the village of Surla,

where 21-year-old Ekal Acharya Ms. Nidhi Prajapati was teaching students using a tablet.

The Ekal Vidyalaya in Surla has 35 enrolled children. Although all of them attend the local government school, the opportunity to learn through tablets is

provided exclusively by the Ekal Vidyalaya.

Acharya Nidhi Prajapati divides the students into three learning groups based on age:

- 4–6 years (Shishu Gatt)
- 6–8 years (Bal Gatt)
- 8–14 years (Bal Gatt 1)







Acharya Nidhi Prajapati teaching children using a tablet at the Ekal Vidyalaya in village Surla

Each group receives the tablet for a set duration of 15 to 30 minutes. The devices are preloaded with educational content, and the children study under the guidance of the Acharya.

Young learners such as 4-year-olds Kartik, Ansh, Tejasvi; 5-year-olds Nitin, Himanshi, Anuradha, Sonakshi,

Suman, Aditya; and 6-year-olds Radhika and Arpit, were all deeply engaged and excited while learning through tablets. The residents of Surla village are also actively involved in ensuring the smooth functioning of the Ekal Vidyalaya and frequently meet with Ekal workers to discuss quality improvement. This wave of e-Shiksha

is not limited to Surla. In the same Sanch, villages like Ballia, Dhantiya, Madhauri, Rukmpur, Sagalpur, Lohar Nangla, Ballakothi, Mawai, Mudhiya, Saiyyadpur, Prahladpur, and Hamirpur are also embracing the e-learning revolution through tablets in their Ekal Vidyalayas.

Children like Bhavya, Bhavana, Madhavi, Kaushal, Arun, Divya, Chhavi, Babli, and Anushka were studying enthusiastically. Since such digital learning tools are not available in their government school, students eagerly attend the Ekal Vidyalaya, with minimal absenteeism, thanks to the engaging tablet-based lessons.

To ensure the sustained quality of education, a Gram Samiti has been formed, which oversees daily operations and actively supports the development of the school.

## Arogya Prakalp: A Lifeline for Rural India

As you enter Nanglamani village, located about 20–25 kilometers from Agra, you're greeted with health-related slogans painted on electric poles, house walls, and shop fronts. Messages promoting hygiene, sanitation, yoga, and home remedies are visible everywhere. These slogans have been written by

Ms. Madhulata, the village's dedicated Arogya Sevika, whose sole mission is to ensure that every resident of her village stays healthy. She serves under the Arogya Prakalp of Ekal Arogya Foundation of India.

Though Nanglamani has a population of around 500, it is striking to note that there is no health center

or doctor in the village. It is Ms. Madhulata who single-handedly looks after the health needs of the community and raises awareness on health-related topics. Through her own efforts, she has helped construct 7 soak pits, 1 compost pit, 4 medicinal gardens, and has carried out wall writing at 45 locations in the village.



Construction of a bio-pit in the Etmadpur branch by Arogya Sevikas



Arogya Sevika Madhulata measuring blood pressure



Inauguration of the Ekal Arogya Project meeting at the Etmadpur branch





Her daily routine includes leading cleanliness drives (both personal and public hygiene), running an anemia control programme, promoting traditional home remedies, developing medicinal gardens, and organizing health awareness and medical camps in collaboration with local doctors. The Etmadpur Sanch Coordinator, Ms. Neelam Devi, extends her full support to Madhulata in these endeavors.

Ekal Arogya Foundation of India is committed to addressing the health challenges of rural India. Sri Manoj Kumar Sharma, National Evaluation Head of the organization, shared that the foundation's activities have been underway since 2014. Currently, the Arogya Prakalp operates in 2,902 villages across 104 Sanchs in 19 states. In these villages, 1,453 Arogya Sevikas are actively delivering health services, with each Sevika covering two villages.

The Sevikas undergo a 10-day residential training in telemedicine, where they learn how to check blood pressure and blood sugar, use thermometers, oximeters, weighing machines, and operate an Android mobile phone and power bank. They are also provided with a basic diagnostic kit and taught how to use each of these tools effectively.

In Mathura Anchal, the Arogya Prakalp has been active since 2019 in 64 villages under the Etmadpur and Nandgaon Sanchs. Each Sevika is provided an Android phone pre-installed with the Arogya App, through which she records patients' symptoms. These are reviewed by doctors connected to the app, who then prescribe treatment through the platform. For serious cases, patients receive consultations via video call. This app-based intervention has even helped save the lives of critically ill patients.

In addition to this, the Arogya Prakalp distributes 33 essential medicines across various Sanchs, which can be used to treat common ailments.

The Arogya Sevikas also use the ARC App (Arogya Resource Center App) to raise community awareness and to document the health-related activities they undertake regularly.

One of the greatest successes of the Ekal Arogya Foundation of India has been its ability to attract doctors who view their profession as a form of social service. Not only doctors from across India, but many Indian-origin doctors from the United States are contributing to the cause of rural health through this initiative. Today, the Arogya Prakalp truly stands as a lifeline - a Sanjeevani - for rural India.

## Poshan Vatikas: Cultivating Nutrition for Rural Families



Chetji's organic farm in village Alduka



Since 2016, an Ekal Vidyalaya has been operational in Surla village under the Abhaypur Sanch of Bareilly Anchal. Inspired and supported by the Ekal Acharya and Ekal volunteers, 52 year old Sri Harpal Singh established a Poshan Vatika (nutrition garden) a year ago, which has since

become a point of discussion in the region. Positioned at the entrance of the village, the garden naturally catches the attention of every passerby.

In this Poshan Vatika, vegetables such as brinjal, colocasia, okra, green chili, ridge gourd, banana, and

coriander are grown. Sri Harpal Singh Prajapati also prepares organic manure on his own to nurture the garden. Any household in the village that needs vegetables from the garden can directly approach Sri Harpal Singh. The garden is maintained entirely by the local villagers.

Similarly, in Lah village of Madhotanda Sanch under Puranpur Anchal, Sri Chandrika Prasad, the Ekal Anchal Samiti Secretary, has developed a Poshan Vatika at his residence. His garden includes crops like okra, colocasia, maize, bitter gourd, melons, chili, cucumber, and others—all grown using organic methods. Through his efforts,







Sri Chandrika Prasad has inspired over 300 families in the village to set up their own nutrition gardens. These families now depend on their gardens for most of their vegetable needs and purchase only items like salt or rare spices from the market. Villagers also prepare manure themselves using cow dung from their livestock.

In Jait village under the Chaumuha Sanch of Mathura Anchal, Thakur Vasudev Singh has also developed a Poshan Vatika on his plot. He grows pomegranate, aloe vera, lemon, spinach, giloy, neem, mulberry, mint, beans, and ridge gourd. A pit has been dug on the premises to prepare manure using cow dung. Two years ago, he met Ekal

workers and, inspired by them, established this garden. Today, Thakur Vasudev Singh also serves as a member of the Ekal Gram Samiti.

During my field visit, I also came across a remarkable example in Alduka village under Nuh Anchal, where 65-year-old Sri Chetji cultivates two acres of land entirely through organic methods. One acre is dedicated to kachri (a local vegetable), while the other is planted with pumpkin and bottle gourd, along with a small patch for cluster beans (guar fali). Practicing organic farming for the past six years, Sri Chet rarely needs to visit the market as villagers themselves come to his farm to buy fresh produce.

Supporting him in this endeavour is his brother, Sri Diwan Singh, a 49-year-old former Indian Army soldier. Both brothers started organic farming inspired by Ekal volunteers, and their example has motivated nearly 20 other farmers in the village to adopt organic practices.

With a vision to ensure pure and nutritious meals for rural families and a healthier future generation, Ekal workers are actively promoting the creation of Poshan Vatikas in villages across the country. The initiative has received an overwhelmingly positive response from the rural community.

## Sewing Centres Inspire Hope for Self-Reliance Among Women



Trainees present at the sewing training center in Alduka village.

Nuh Anchal, a Muslim-majority region, has been home to Ekal operations since 2005. Initially, Ekal faced resistance due to the prevailing mindset shaped by religious orthodoxy and community influence, particularly in Muslim-majority areas. However, the movement was readily accepted in Hindu-dominated regions.

Currently, Ekal Vidyalayas are functioning in 216 villages across 8 Sanchs of Nuh Anchal. While some Muslim children do attend these schools, their participation remains limited due to deep-rooted religious beliefs.

Recently, on May 17, 2025, a Sewing Training Centre was inaugurated in Alduka village under the aegis of the Ekal Gramoththan Foundation of India. The centre has enrolled 34 women who are enthusiastically learning sewing skills. The instructor, Ms. Preeti, is associated with Ekal through the local committee. She learned sewing in Gurugram in 2006 and is now empowering rural women by training them.

The sewing centre operates in three batches:

- 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM
- 12:00 PM to 2:00 PM
- 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM

It is equipped with 14 sewing machines, including three types - normal, umbrella, and electronic on which the women receive hands-on training. Women like Ms. Sneha, Neha,



Exhibition of self-made clothes learned from the sewing center.

Beena Devi, Nisha, Bala Devi, and Aanchal expressed their happiness and pride in acquiring a skill that can make them self-reliant. They all unanimously credit the Ekal Abhiyan for this opportunity.

Similarly, on May 31, 2025, another Sewing Training Centre was inaugurated in Mohammadpur village of Nuh Anchal. Fourteen women have enrolled so far. After a three-month training program, these women will be able to start their own work and take steps towards economic independence.





## Training Rural Storytellers through the Srikrishna Katha Centre

Under the Ekal Abhiyan, several initiatives are being carried out by the Ekal Srihari Satsang Samiti to blend education with cultural and spiritual values across villages. Among the most significant of these is the identification and nurturing of local storytellers individuals from the villages themselves who are trained in the art of devotional narration. These individuals are then sent back to their communities to conduct Satsangs and deliver Ram Katha or Srikrishna Katha, thereby strengthening Sanatan values and moral fabric in rural society.

For the past two decades, the Ekal Srihari Satsang Samiti has trained thousands of such young men and women, transforming them into Vyas Kathakars, spiritual narrators who travel from village to village sharing the divine stories of Lord Ram and Lord Krishna, nurturing devotion and values rooted in Indian tradition.

But have you ever wondered what kind of training these young storytellers between the ages of 16 to 30 undergo? What does their daily routine look like? How are they molded into spiritual orators

capable of holding entire villages in devotional rapture?

Seeking answers to these questions, I visited Ujrai Kala, a village in Mathura Anchal, where a Srikrishna Katha Training Centre is currently running. Located just 20 km from Agra, this centre was originally based at Keshav Dham in Vrindavan since its inception in 1998. It was only a year ago that it was relocated to Ujrai Kala.

The centre's administrator, Sri Tilak Chandra Kaushik, shared that the training here emphasizes Bhagavad Gita, Srimad Bhagavatam, and themes of patriotism. The full training duration is six months, preceded by a one-month primary screening course. Only those who successfully complete the initial course are admitted to the comprehensive training program.

Ms. Nanki Munda, the lead trainer at the centre, shared that currently, 35 young women are receiving advanced training at the centre, all hailing from the state of Assam. After completing their course, they will return to their home state to deliver Srikrishna Katha. She noted that the traditions of Srikrishna Katha are



Sisters from the Assam region present at the Sri Krishna Katha training center

especially revered in Assam, Bengal, and Odisha. Students from Odisha train at the Puri Centre, those from Bengal at Nabadwip, and those from Assam at Ujrai Kala.

The young women currently undergoing training are immersed in a disciplined, spiritually rich environment that promotes structured living and devotional learning. Once they complete their training and return to their regions, they will become torchbearers of Indian Sanatani values, playing a key role in cultivating a value-based society for future generations.

As they narrate tales steeped in the divine lives of Radha and Krishna, they will undoubtedly spread waves of devotion and inner awakening across society.

## Through Satsang, Villagers Becoming Guardians of Sanatan Dharma

In Lah village of Madhotanda Sanch, under Puranpur Anchal, villagers joined hands with Ekal workers to perform a collective puja of the Srihari Mandir Rath. Following the ritual, from 7:45 PM to 8:45 PM, all participants engaged in a community Satsang. During the event, I had the opportunity to meet Sri Rajesh Kumar, head of the Srihari Rath. He shared that since 2012, the Srihari Rath has been actively serving the Rohilkhand region. In the past two months alone, the Rath team has inspired 17 villagers to take pledges against substance abuse, conducted group recitations of the Hanuman Chalisa at 142 locations, and distributed 178 copies of the Hanuman Chalisa among villagers.

Additionally, in 25 villages, Gram Devta (village deity) worship was held upon the Rath's arrival, with participation from 730 men and 900 women. Village festivals were also organized in these villages, drawing 600 men and 735 women in attendance. Sri Rajesh Kumar remarked, "Through the Srihari Rath, Ekal is not only spreading awareness of Sanatan values in rural areas but also working to eliminate the social evil of addiction. It brings us joy to see villagers emerging as sentinels of Sanatan Dharma through Satsang." Between 2021 and May 2025, the Srihari Rath has conducted 4,294 daytime programmes attended by 2,69,174 villagers, and 2,779 nighttime sessions with participation from 3,94,728 villagers.



Satsang organized by committee office bearers in Lah village





## Ekal Abhiyan Honoured as an Environmental Guardian



Tree plantation with villagers, workers, and office bearers.



Worship of Mother Ganga on the occasion of Ganga Dussehra

Ekal Vidyalaya operations began in the Puranpur Anchal of Brajmandal Sambhag in 2005. Currently, Ekal Vidyalayas are functioning in 420 villages of the region. About 20 km from Puranpur lies the source of the Gomti River, which becomes the site of a local fair every year on Ganga Dussehra. On this auspicious day, rituals are performed in worship of the river, and plantation drives are conducted along its banks.

By coincidence, my visit to Puranpur coincided with Ganga Dussehra. Ekal workers had organized a plantation drive under the Activities Department, and I had the fortune of witnessing the programme at the Gomti River's origin point.

Anchal Abhiyan Pramukh Sri Anil Saxena informed me that since 2005,

Ekal workers have been planting saplings at the source of the Gomti River annually. This year, the programme was conducted with active participation from nearby villagers. Alongside 20–25 Ekal workers, a dozen residents took part in the drive. Mango and Jamun saplings were planted, and all present took a pledge to care for and nurture them. A collective river puja followed the plantation.

After the rituals, everyone enjoyed a traditional community meal of chokha-baati prepared on-site.

In the evening, a Vichar Gosthi (thought-sharing session) was held in Lah village to mark World Environment Day. Organized under the Ekal Abhiyan's Activities

Department, the session was led by Sambhag Gatividhi Pramukh Sri Kulbir, who spoke on the significance of the environment and Ekal's mission. Emphasizing the protection of rivers, forests, and the environment, he encouraged villagers to take a solemn pledge to safeguard nature.

Owing to such dedicated efforts, Ekal Abhiyan is now being recognized as an Environmental Guardian in the Puranpur Anchal. ■

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

(With inputs from: Ashutosh Vajpayee, Sunil Kumar, Kulbir Singh, Gyanendra Singh, Anuj Kumar, Anil Saxena, Ankur Kumar, Anoop Singh, Manoj Kumar Sharma, Jal Singh)

Figures included in the write-up are covered up to May 2025





# Central Team Meeting Ekal Arogya Prakalp



The Central Team Meeting of the Ekal Arogya Prakalp was successfully held at Aaroham Happiness Home, Bithoor (Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh). The session commenced with the ceremonial lighting of the lamp by Dr. Umesh Paliwal (Trustee and Central Executive Member, Arogya Foundation of India), Sri Deep Kumar (Central Sah Abhiyan Pramukh, Ekal Abhiyan), Sri Arvind Brahmhatt (Organisation Secretary, Arogya Foundation of India), and Dr. T.N. Satpathy (Project Head, Ekal Arogya Project).

## Key Resolutions and Decisions

**1. Future Expansion Plan:** Priority will be given to sensitive, tribal, and border areas during project expansion.

**2. Arogya Sevika Appointments:** Only married women will be appointed as Sevikas. Appointments will be based on written examinations conducted by Sanch Coordinators with approval from the Village Committee.

## 3. Committee Formation and Reorganization:

- Village Committees: Minimum of 7 members (both men and women).
- Sanch Committees: To be formed with consent from senior workers and the Sambhag Committee.
- Periodic restructuring of all committees (Village, Sanch, Anchal, Sambhag) is essential. Workers must remain in regular contact.

**4. KID Creation Process:** First, a KIF (Worker Information Form) will be created, followed by issuing a permanent KID number.

- The format will be shared by the Evaluation Head with Sambhag Coordinators.

**5. Central Worker Field Visits:** A minimum 4-day field stay is mandatory to ensure Sambhag-level activity:

- Village Visit: 1 Day
- Sanch Visit: 1 Day
- Sambhag Pravas: 1 Day
- Evaluation & Reporting: 1 Day

## 6. MWR Evaluation Process:

- MWR reports must be submitted to the office within the stipulated time.
- Submission Flow: Sanch Coordinator → Project Coordinator → State Coordinator → Sambhag Head → Central Evaluation Head

**7. Telemedicine Expansion:** Within the next 3 months, each Sambhag should bring 40% of Sanches under the graded telemedicine model.

## 8. Eyewear & Eye Van Projects:

- Spectacle Distribution Projects are running successfully in North Gujarat and Western Assam.
- Eye Van operations are active in South Jharkhand but halted in Rajasthan due to technician unavailability.
- Spectacle Projects will be promoted in such areas.
- A pilot project is being launched in Harrai Sanch (Chhindwara, M.P.).

**9. Sanch Conferences:** Conferences should be pre-planned.

- Dr. Mohan Dev conducted training







sessions via PPT, IVC and online platforms.

#### 10. Self-Reliance Initiatives:

- Local Sanch-le3vel training workshops will be organized.
- Sevikas will be encouraged to undergo medicinal herb training and organic compost pit construction.
- Product marketing responsibilities will lie with the Sambhag Committee.

**11. Insurance Schemes:** Promote the following government schemes for workers and Sevikas:

- Ayushman Bharat
- PM Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana
- PM Suraksha Bima Yojana
- Atal Pension Yojana

**12. ARC App Improvement:** All Sambhag Heads have submitted written feedback regarding app-related issues to Dr. Mukul Bhatia.

**13. Competency Training Programmes:** Will be held as per the pre-set schedule.

- Regular ARC training sessions will continue for new Sanches.

**14. Office Set-up Plans:** Sambhags with 10+ Sanches will establish dedicated offices.

- Existing Offices:
- Chhattisgarh: Lonjoda; Assam: Sarupathar; and Rajasthan: Khedli

**Proposed New Offices:** Gujarat: Baroda; Central India: Indore; Uttar Pradesh: Kanpur; South India: Bengaluru; and Punjab: Pathankot.

- Office heads must be proficient in computer operations and Excel reporting.

- They will send monthly analytical reports to Sambhag Heads.

**15. Monthly Sambhag Committee Meetings:** Must follow each central team meeting. Topics to be discussed:

- Upcoming field visit planning and analysis.
- Community participation in Prabhat Pheri and committees.
- Planning of Sanch Conferences.
- Van Yatra (field excursions) planning.
- Monthly work plans of Sanches.
- Review of previous month's activities.

**16. Training Budget:** All training-related budgets must be submitted to Dr. Manish.

- Bank details of the concerned committee member are mandatory.

**17. Travel Reimbursement Forms:** Must be signed by a senior worker/mentor.

- Submit to the Kolkata office by the 15th of every month.

**18. Monthly Field Visit Plans:** Each worker must send their monthly travel plan to their senior worker and mentor.

- Follow-up will be done by the senior.

**19. Monthly Work Plans:** Each Sambhag Head must send the next month's work plan to the Ranchi office

by the 12th after the team meeting.

**20. Worker Grading System:** 7 key parameters defined for evaluating workers.

- Committee Members:** Dr. R.N. Mehta, Sri Arvind Brahmabhatt, Sri Satish Gupta.

**21. Social Media Outreach:** Essential platforms for promoting field work:

- Brochures, Website
- Social Media (Instagram, WhatsApp, YouTube, Facebook, etc.)

**Meeting Participation:** A total of 31 workers and 23 officials/ doctors/ committee members participated from: Assam, Bengal, Jharkhand, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Mahakaushal, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Rajasthan.

- 12 sessions were conducted during the meeting.

- A motivational session on the diverse service dimensions of RSS was delivered by Sri Shyam Babu, Kanpur Vibhag Sanghchalak, who appreciated the contribution of Ekal Abhiyan.

**Closing Ceremony:** The meeting concluded with lamp lighting before the portraits of Maa Saraswati and Bharat Mata. The closing was led by Sambhag Committee President Sri Awadh Bihari Mishra. All participants were felicitated with tokens of appreciation. ■

**Publicity & Outreach Department**  
Arogya Prkalp





# Ekal Srihari National Women's Committee Coordination Meeting

*A Confluence of Organization, Values, and Determination*



The coordination meeting of the Ekal Srihari National Women's Committee was held in the picturesque premises of The Golden Palms Resort, amidst a serene ambiance enhanced by light showers. The meeting was attended by 120 members and 15 sewa-vratees from 18 cities.

On June 21, 2025, at 9:30 AM, the meeting commenced with the lighting of the ceremonial lamp by Shantakka ji, the Chief Executive of Rashtra Sevika Samiti, and Manju Didi, Chairperson of Ekal Sansthan. The women's segment of the meeting included participation from 58 delegates representing 10 cities.

Ms Shantakka ji delivered a stirring address on the topic "The Role of Women in Nation Building." Drawing references from the Vedas and Upanishads, she eloquently explained, in simple and inspiring language, the profound duties of the Indian Hindu woman in the development of the family, society, and the nation.

Manju Didi offered her insightful guidance on "The Role of Women in Ekal." She likened women to 'Swayam Siddha' — self-realized and empowered beings. While they build and nurture

families and society, their most vital role is to instill values and discipline. Today's woman is modern in thought and self-reliant. The role she plays in the family is the same role she must fulfill within the organization to connect the organization with the spirit of familial belonging.

During the report presentation session, progress reports from 13 cities were shared. Watching the compiled video presentations of each city's activities was a delightful experience. This year, through various initiatives, the Women's Committee successfully raised Rs. 3.44 crores, a report that was both inspiring and a matter of pride for all attendees.

Dr. Nirmala Pedhiwal, President, stated: "Our target is to connect with one crore families. Through the Seva Patra, Sankranti Collection, and Hanuman Parivar Yojana, we will reach every household. It is our resolve to install the spirit of Bharat Mata in every home."

Post-lunch, the National Coordination Committee meeting of Ekal Srihari began. Over the course of six sessions, presentations, discussions, and guidance were shared on various subjects.

Following the welcome, review of previous meetings, and updates on decision implementation, year-round progress reports on various initiatives were presented:

**1. Srihari Rath Yojana:** Through video and digital presentations, it was shared that 98 Srihari Rathes are currently operating.

## 2. National Women's Committee:

Out of 29 chapters, 15 have active women's committees. Through Seva Patra, Sankranti Collection, Sanskar Kendras, and the Rath initiatives, a total collection of Rs. 3.44 crores was achieved. The goal remains to reach one crore families.

## 3. National Report Review Committee:

This committee, operational in Mumbai for the past 5 years, presented its report. It was observed that this effort has enhanced the quality and efficiency of work and has led to the establishment of robust systems.

## 4. Srihari Yuva Vibhag (Youth Wing):

Active in Mumbai and Surat, this wing has initiated work in Shabari settlements and is organizing dynamic youth programmes such as Box Cricket, Nishan Yatra, and Forest Excursions (Van Yatra).

## 5. Nagar Katha (Urban Spiritual Discourses):

Nagar Katha is enabling the formation and activation of committees at the anchal (regional) level. • Currently, three teams have been formed. • The goal is to conduct 10 Kathas per month. • This year, the target for digital collection is Rs. 20 lakhs, and next year it is 50 lakhs.

## 6. Ekal Surtaal and Bhajan Sandhya:

Conducted in cities for the purpose of public outreach and fundraising.

## 7. Sanskar Shiksha (Value-based Education), Regional Work:

Currently operational in approximately 57,000 villages; there is a need for further expansion.







**8. Training Centres:** Training is ongoing at 7 centres, with 296 brothers and sisters currently enrolled.

**9. Training Curriculum Focuses On:**  
• Imparting patriotism and values rooted in national pride • Inspiring de-addiction (vyasan-mukti) • Promoting the glory of cow protection and cow service (gau raksha and gau seva)

**10. Urban-Village Organizational Coordination:** Structuring of meetings to ensure dialogue and coordination between urban chapter committees, village-level organizations, and full-time volunteers (sewavratis).

**11. Urban Work:** In today's global and socio-cultural context, it is important to stay connected and united through national and religious causes. Ekal Srihari serves as an excellent medium for such engagement.

**Rashtriya Abhiyan Pramukh, Dr. Lalan Sharma:** He emphasized the importance of Ekal's work, stating that Ekal operates across three types of regions:

- 1. Vanvasi (Tribal Areas):** Regions surrounded by forests, often remote and underdeveloped.
- 2. Gramin (Rural Areas):** Traditional villages that may not be tribal but still lack access to essential services and spiritual guidance.
- 3. Nagariya (Urban Areas):** Urban localities where spiritual and cultural values need to be preserved amidst modern lifestyles.

He highlighted that through Sanskar Kendras, Srihari Rath Yatra, Bhajan Evenings, Storytelling (Katha), and Spiritual Education, the Ekal Srihari initiative is touching lives in all these regions and transforming the fabric of society. The meeting ended with a collective resolution to take this spiritual and cultural renaissance forward with full

commitment and coordination across urban and rural wings of Ekal Srihari.

President Sri Mahesh Mittal Outlines Goals for the Coming Year - Sri Mittal set the financial target for all Ekal Srihari chapters for the upcoming year at approximately Rs. 40 crore.

He presented three proposals during the meeting:

1. Donation of ₹7,500 towards Sanskar Shiksha in villages.
2. ₹25 lakh annual donation for the operation of a Training Centre - with the donor's name to be displayed at the centre.
3. Annual maintenance amount of ₹5 lakh for each Srihari Rath.

All three proposals were unanimously accepted by all attendees with a collective affirmation of "Om".

**Sri Kedia's Address:** General Secretary Sri Vijay Kedia discussed strategies for Jan-Sangrah (public fundraising), including: • Door-to-door outreach for programme invitations • "Bouquet for a Cause" campaigns • Organizing large and small Van Yatras (forest pilgrimages) • Hosting major events, and conducting regular meetings for coordination and motivation.

Message from Manju Didi, delivered an inspiring address on the role of women and youth in Ekal. She emphasized:

- Give freedom and trust to women and youth to take responsibility.
- For youth, working in Shabari Bastis (marginalized tribal areas) is a noble mission.
- Women should cultivate a family-like atmosphere within the organization and take responsibility for nurturing fellow workers.



Office bearers of the organization present in the meeting.

- In the current times, devotion to the nation (rashtrabhakti) is more urgently needed than personal piety (dev bhakti).
- She urged everyone to install a statue of Bharat Mata (Mother India) in their local temples to constantly remind us of our collective goal.
- She called for a commitment to Swadeshi (indigenous products) and self-reliance.

**Special Feature of the Meeting:**  
A special highlight and significant achievement of the meeting was a presentation on CSR. The presentation was delivered very effectively by National Treasurer Sri Anjani Agrawal.

**Special Presentation for Donors:**  
A 27-slide Power Point presentation (PPT) titled Ekal Srihari for Nation Building and Vikist Bharat' prepared by Sri Anjani Agrawal.

**Closing Session:** In the closing session, Rashtriya Abhiyan Prabhar, Sri Rajesh Goyal emphasized that to strengthen and expand the organization, we must work with seriousness, thoughtful deliberation, and open dialogue with everyone involved. The meeting concluded on Sunday, June 22, with the collective singing of "Vande Mataram."

**Mahila Prachar Vibhag**  
Srihari, Bengaluru





Daulat Ram College, in collaboration with Ekal Sansthan, successfully conducted a four-day community outreach programme titled "Bhavishya Ki Ore Ek Udaan" from June 16 – 19, 2025 for the children of Allipur Village Ekal Vidyalaya, Faridabad. The initiative

community. Through interdisciplinary sessions, hands-on activities, and immersive campus experiences, the event aimed to nurture curiosity and confidence in these young learners.

**Day 1 – 16th June 2025**

**Welcome Ceremony and Inauguration:** 28 children aged 6 to

## Campus Tour and Key Visits

- **Recycling Unit Visit:** Children were shown the process of converting organic waste into manure and paper recycling. They received recycled paper bags and learned the 3Rs - Reduce, Reuse, Recycle through relatable, real-life examples.

## Daulat Ram College, Delhi University in collaboration with Ekal Sansthan



## Bhavishya Ki Ore Ek Udaan

*A Community Outreach Programme for Allipur Village Ekal Vidyalaya, Faridabad*

aimed to promote holistic development and educational empowerment among the 28 children from the Vidyalaya, who were hosted in the college hostel during their stay.

The programme was designed to bridge learning gaps, spark creativity, instill scientific curiosity, and foster social responsibility among both the visiting children and the college

13 years, accompanied by two Acharyas (one village-level Acharya and one Sanch Pramukh) from Ekal Vidyalaya, Allipur Village, were welcomed by college teachers and NSS volunteers. The principal addressed the students and staff, laying out the vision of the camp. Each child received a stationery kit for the scheduled activities.

- **Library Exploration:** Children explored the Ramalaya section and expressed themselves by writing their thoughts, which were later appreciated for their originality.
- **Ornamental Fish Lab (Zoology Dept.):** The children enjoyed solving fish puzzles, making origami, and drawing aquatic







Children in physics lab

creatures, sparking curiosity about marine biodiversity.

### Day 2 – 17th June 2025

The day began with a refreshing yoga session at the Sports Complex, followed by breakfast and a series of science and arts-based explorations.

#### Science Activities and Lab Visits

- **Biochemistry Lab (Zebrafish & Drosophila):** Children were introduced to the importance of model organisms like zebrafish and fruit flies in biological research. They viewed zebrafish organs, watched a heart - beats under the microscope, and identified male and female specimens. The session also included a taste-perception activity using PTC strips, revealing biological diversity in taste.
- **Botany Lab (Rhoeo Leaf Cell Study):** Children in the 10–13 age group observed plant cells using microscopes and prepared their

own slides. Their understanding of cell structure and function was reinforced through drawing exercises and interactive discussions.

#### Physics Lab Experiments: Nine engaging demonstrations included:

- Light dispersion through prisms
- Diffraction using laser beams
- Newton's color disc
- Simple circuits using LEDs
- Balloon rocket and hot-air spiral experiments
- Refraction with glass and kerosene

These experiments helped students understand fundamental physics concepts in a fun, hands-on manner.

- **“Fun with Chemistry”:** Children learned to write invisible messages using colorless solutions, tested the pH of everyday substances, made natural soaps, and prepared aloe vera-based hand sanitizers—blending fun, creativity, and scientific learning.

#### Psychology Activities

- **Session with Prof. Pooja V. Anand:** Focused on positive psychology, children identified their strengths, practiced gratitude, and wrote motivational

quotes on bookmarks. Activities promoted self-awareness and emotional well-being.

- **Session with Dr. Kshitija Wason:** Targeted at younger children, this included emotional expression through drawing, clay modelling, and games using hula hoops and stones to help children recognize and articulate their feelings.

#### English Department Workshop

– **“Stories of Pictures”:** Led by Ms. Shilpa Vashisht, this workshop encouraged children to craft stories based on visual prompts. They enhanced their storytelling, writing, and public speaking skills in a supportive environment.

#### History Department Activity – “Bharat ki Jhalak”

Dr. Nikhil Gangwar introduced children to India's geographical and political structure using maps, with special focus on the eastern and northeastern states. The session promoted geographical literacy through an interactive approach.

### Day 3 – 18th June 2025

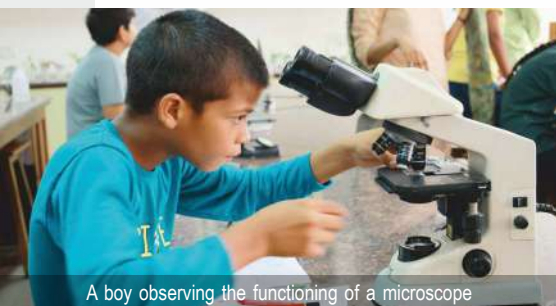
After morning yoga and sports activities, children explored technology and traditional mathematics.

#### “Learning Basic IT Tools” – Commerce Department

Two sessions were conducted for the different age groups:

##### Younger Group (6–9 yrs):

- Introduction to computer components and functions.
- Hands-on drawing using Paintbrush.
- Identification of input-output devices using props and visual aids.



A boy observing the functioning of a microscope





Dr. Savita Roy, Principal, presenting a token of appreciation to a guest

- Worksheet-based learning and reinforcement.

#### Older Group (10–13 yrs):

- Creating Gmail accounts, exploring desktops, and using MS Word tools.
- Inserting tables, pictures, and SmartArt.
- Sessions enhanced digital literacy and practical application of IT tools.

**Vedic Mathematics Sessions – Mathematics Department:** Two sessions across Day 1 and Day 3 introduced students to shortcut techniques in calculation:

**Day 1:** Basics of addition (dot method and non-carrying).

**Day 3:** Tricks like squaring numbers ending with 5, crosswise multiplication, and miracle methods. These fun techniques increased students' confidence in handling numbers.

**Nukkad Natak (Street Theatre) – Guided by Mimesis, Dramatics**

**Society:** Children prepared and presented plays on themes like pollution and deforestation, learning script writing, stage presence, and the use of props. These skits, performed on Day 3 and Day 4, reflected their creative understanding of environmental concerns.

#### Day 4 – 19th June 2025

The final day began with yoga and a sports event, including Kabaddi, Kho-Kho, and a 100-metre race. Children competed enthusiastically, and prizes were distributed to both teams and individuals.

**Tree Plantation Drive:** A plantation drive was organised in the college's Sports Complex with active participation from Ekal guests, faculty, students, and NSS volunteers, reinforcing values of sustainability and environmental consciousness.

**Valedictory Session:** The closing ceremony, held on 19th June 2025, was graced by esteemed dignitaries: Prof. Ranjan Kumar Tripathi (Dean

Students' Welfare); Sri Mahavir (Vibhaag Karyavah, RSS – Jhandewalan); Smt. Manju Srivastava (Trustee & Chairperson, Ekal Abhiyan); Dr. Ramandeep Kaur (Ekal Sansthan); and Smt Barkha Mangal.

The session began with the ceremonial lighting of the lamp. The Dignitaries were introduced and felicitated. Children performed their Nukkad Natak, and a visual presentation showcased glimpses of the camp's four-day journey.

Heartfelt reflections of the students were highlighted by their learning, confidence-building, and memorable experiences. Certificates were awarded to all participants, acknowledging their enthusiastic involvement.

After lunch, the children departed for their village, carrying valuable memories with them, exposure to new learning, and a sense of joy, dignity, and inclusion. ■

**Dr. Moitree Bhattacharya**  
Convenor, Daulat Ram College







## Strengthening Ekal's Global Footprint

# Strategic Outreach in Europe & the Middle East

*In April-May 2025, Dr. Kishor, President, Ekal Global Foundation, and Smt Kalpana Fruitwala undertook a six-week trip to Europe and the Middle East. The trip, a resounding success, covered six cities including Bahrain, Frankfurt, Zurich, Paris, Milan, and Dubai. The purpose of the trip was to: (1) meet with the current karyakartas and motivate them, (2) establish ground teams of karyakartas where there are no formal chapters, (3) meet with business leaders and discuss how they can support Ekal, and (4) plan for events in the next 12-15 months for Ekal awareness and branding, particularly in Europe.*

### BAHRAIN

Their first destination was Bahrain, where Ekal's Coordinator, Sri Mahesh Dev, a highly respected community and business leader had set up for them several meetings with Gujarati Samaj members. In these meetings, they enlightened the gathering about the Ekal Abhiyan through ppt presentations and explained to them the Ekal Vidyalaya program. They also talked about the Skill Development activities conducted by the Ekal Gramothan Foundation. One of the highlights of the Bahrain visit was their invitation to Vaishnodevi temple for the Ramnavmi celebration, where Kishorji introduced Ekal's work at length to several hundred devotees.



Sri Kishor presenting a PowerPoint on Ekal's work

### FRANKFURT

The second leg of the trip was Frankfurt, whose Ekal Coordinator, Sri Balaji Govinda Rao, had organized a meeting of Ekal supporters. A total of nine people attended the meeting, some of whom were new and posed many questions regarding Ekal's mission, its operations and impact. To satisfy their curiosity, Ekal's work in India, as well as its global outreach was expounded to them in detail. During the meeting, the formation of a local team was discussed, as also Ekal's registration in Germany as an NGO. The need to organize an event to reach out to the NRIs and the local community was recognized by everyone.



Sri Kishor explaining Ekal's initiatives to the audience





## ZURICH

The next city on their itinerary was Zurich, where Sri Mangesh Desai, the Ekal Coordinator, had organized a meeting attended by four people. All of them were very familiar with Ekal's work in the area of education (EVFI). Dr. Kishorji and Ms. Kalpana Fruitwala educated them further about Ekal's other programs. They appeared to be a very enthusiastic team, eager to register Ekal as an NGO in Switzerland at the earliest. The team also formed plans to distribute flyers at major Indian events including Navaratri, Ganesh festivals, etc.

## PARIS

Paris was the fourth Ekal city to be covered during this trip. Sri Sachin Sadh, the Trustee of the Paris Chapter organized an Ekal meeting at the GOPIO office. There were over 20 very enthusiastic people in the audience, either from the business community or professionals, all settled in France for a very long time. Most of the attendees were aware of Ekal's work. One of the members suggested that the brochure should be translated into French to reach out to larger local community. Just like in Frankfurt and Zurich, the members emphasized the need for a major Ekal program for awareness and fund-raising.



Sri Sachin Sadh with the Ekal team at the GOPIO office

## MILAN

The next stop was Milan, where Sri Bitthal, a trustee of Ekal Global Foundation, organized a meeting at his residence in honour of the Ekal visitors. The 28 attendees of the meeting included Gujarati Samaj and India Association leaders, the head of TCS, young college students, and representative from the Indian consulate. The audience engaged very well with the Ekal presentation. Some of them had been living in Milan for over fifty years. Most knew about Ekal, some of them even being Ekal donors who had accompanied Sri Bitthal on vanyatras.



Participants attending the Ekal meeting

## DUBAI

Finally, the duo from Bharat touched Dubai, the last leg of their journeys. Sri Balkrishna, the Dubai Coordinator, had lined up several meetings at the offices of the Ekal supporters. Here they met with several diamond merchants and other businessmen of Dubai and elucidated for them the different activities of Ekal in Bharat. The members pledged their support to Ekal and expressed their intention to donate Bhagvad Gita to every single Ekal school, if not to every child.



Sri Balkrishna in discussion with prominent businessmen on Ekal's mission

As the six-week trip ended, it culminated in the resolve to establish chapters in various European countries, and plan for a major cultural event in 2026 for outreach and Ekal Branding.

Collated by  
**Nishi Agarwal**  
President, Ekal Sansthan  
Prayagraj Chapter







# YOGA

## FOR

# ONE EARTH, ONE HEALTH



The theme of International Yoga Day 2025, "Yoga for One Earth, One Health", reaffirms the essence of our ancient Vedic Sanatani philosophy of "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam" - the world is one family. It fills us with pride in our age-old spirit of "Sarve Bhavantu Sukhinah, Sarve Santu Niramayah" (May all be happy, may all be free of illness) and "Sarva Jan Hitaya, Sarva Jan Sukhaya" (For the welfare and happiness of all). It is these eternal values that earned India the title of Vishwa Guru (Global Teacher).

The historic day of December 11, 2014, marks a spiritual gift to the world—June 21, which the United

Nations General Assembly officially declared as International Yoga Day.

Yoga, an invaluable legacy of India's cultural heritage, has been a source of pride in the Sanatani tradition for thousands of years. However, since the UN recognition, it is now celebrated officially on a global platform and continues to leave its mark worldwide. This day is now observed annually as a global festival, celebrating physical, mental, and spiritual well-being. Following its path paves the way for world peace and prosperity.

No matter how much humanity advances materially, true mental peace cannot be attained without adhering to Indian spiritual and cultural principles.

The Yoga Sutras of Maharshi Patanjali, primarily composed of four chapters-Samadhi Pada, Sadhana Pada, Vibhuti Pada, and Kaivalya Pada - contain a total of 195 sutras (aphorisms) that comprehensively explore various dimensions of yoga. At its core, the entire Patanjali Yoga Sutra can be summarized through the Ashtanga Yoga (Eight Limbs of Yoga):

1. Yama (ethical restraints),
2. Niyama (personal observances),
3. Asana (postures),
4. Pranayama (breath control),
5. Pratyahara (withdrawal of senses),
6. Dharana (concentration),
7. Dhyana (meditation),
8. Samadhi (absorption or blissful union with the Supreme).

While the entire world has come to revere yoga, this day of Indian pride is celebrated by the Ekal Abhiyan annually from May 20 to June 21 as a month-long Yoga and Herbal Remedy Training Festival. Each day, one-hour morning and evening training sessions are conducted. The campaign witness's participation not only from Ekal's 100,000 schools across India but also from institutions like Career Point University, Hamirpur, and several organizations affiliated with the Ministry of AYUSH.

This year too, the culmination ceremony of this initiative was held in the gracious presence of Sri Alok Kumar, Joint General Secretary of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh and Liaison Officer of the Ekal Abhiyan. Speaking on the occasion, he remarked:





## Ekal Abhiyan Activity Department International Yoga Day Report - 2025



S.No.	Prabha	No. of Yoga Programmes in the Ekal Vidyalaya Village	No. of attendees at the programme held in the school village	No. of programmes in other villages	No. of attendees in other villages	No. of programmes held at other locations	No. of attendees at programmes held at other locations	Total No. of programme	Total Attendance
1	P-1	4188	489333	485	35388	115	22076	4788	546797
2	P-2	12621	1715802	875	81011	88	10960	13584	1807773
3	P-3	11295	1339051	983	87525	163	28811	12441	1455387
4	P-4	11020	1311401	1905	151525	117	17866	13042	1480792
5	P-5	7254	803218	581	45307	109	17526	7944	866051
6	P-6	15573	1591865	794	59971	145	17202	16512	1669038
7	P-7	8577	1161788	1466	127951	73	8043	10116	1297782
8	P-8	4145	564306	734	55372	78	8644	4957	628322
9	P-9	3123	165494	175	5002	11	1013	3309	171509
10	P-10	1495	89571	121	3100	17	1605	1633	94276
11	P-11	0	0	19	970	1	135	20	1105
<b>Total</b>		<b>79,291</b>	<b>92,31,829</b>	<b>8,138</b>	<b>6,53,122</b>	<b>917</b>	<b>1,33,881</b>	<b>88,346</b>	<b>1,00,18,832</b>

"Yoga is now globally celebrated. Maharshi Patanjali composed the Yoga Sutras for physical, mental, and spiritual purity. Recognizing its profound significance, the United Nations declared an official Yoga Day. But I sincerely urge all of us not to treat this merely as a one-day event. Let us internalize yoga in our daily lives. At the very least, let us devote as much time to yoga and pranayama as we do to eating."

This virtual yoga session was graced by: Sri Shyam Gupta, Mentor, Ekal Abhiyan; Sri Rajesh Goyal, National Head, Ekal Abhiyan; Dr. Ramavtar, Yoga & Herbal Remedies In-charge; Dr. Lalan Sharma, General Secretary, Central Executive Committee; Sri Deep

Kumar, Kendriya Arogya Yojana Pramukh; Prof. Kuntesh Kumari; Sri Pradeep Swain, Head of Central Activity Department; and Sri Neeraj Thakur, Central Training Head, Activity Division

Participants included teachers, students, committee members, and villagers from across the 100,000 Ekal schools nationwide. Under the divisional structure of Ekal, live coverage of yoga sessions from different schools in all 10 divisions was also streamed, making it a visually impactful and inspiring event. The session was moderated by Sri Karn Gaur, Central Training Team Member (Activity Department), with Sri Kaku Sharma, Office Head, managing the technical execution.

In the closing remarks, Sri Deep Kumar, Joint National Head, expressed heartfelt gratitude and shared: "International Yoga Day was celebrated with joy and meaningful participation by the Ekal Abhiyan across the nation. Yoga was not just showcased as a physical exercise but as a holistic way of life. In every village and city, Ekal's sevavratins and supporters energized India's ancient tradition through collective practice. This event has further reinforced Ekal's resolve for a Healthy, Educated, and Cultured Bharat."

**Sanjay Malviya**  
Kendriya Prachar Vibhag Pramukh,  
Ekal Abhiyan





## Hamilton Celebrates International Yoga Day with Community Spirit

International Yoga Day was celebrated at the University Recreation Centre in Hamilton, New Zealand, with the motto "Minimum Talks, Maximum Participation." The engaging event featured a mix of yoga practice, brief presentations, and interactive quizzes.

Sri Sanjay Joshi opened the session with a concise overview of yoga—from postures and breathing (pranayama) to disciplined living and spiritual practice. Ms Ari served as the Master of Ceremonies, introducing each segment and quiz. Ms. Shweta led initial stretches and Surya Namaskar, followed by Ms. Apoorva Thapa, who guided the yogic postures.



Yoga session led by Ekal team in Hamilton

Dr. Sneha Sadani and Smt. Usha Kadam presented Ekal Vidyalaya, and Sri Nandan Modak spoke on the meaning and chanting of 'Om'. Sri Vinay Karanam conducted pranayama, and Tarak led the meditation session. Dr. Deepak Sadani managed the technical setup,

while Sri Shesh kept the event on schedule. The evening concluded with a vote of thanks by Sri Tarun Pragji of the Waikato Indian Association, which also provided fruit refreshments. The well-paced programme wrapped up within two hours, leaving everyone inspired and refreshed.

## Ekal Auckland Connects Body, Mind and Community Through Yoga

The Ekal Vidyalaya Foundation NZ and GOPIO, in collaboration with the Consulate General of India, celebrated International Yoga Day on June 22, 2025, in Auckland with great enthusiasm and community spirit.

The programme commenced with a soulful rendition of "Tum Asha Vishwas Hamare..." by Ms. Vidya Teke, a renowned vocalist celebrated across New Zealand. This was followed by a warm welcome address by Ms. Shivani Aurora, President of the Auckland Chapter, who passionately spoke about



Team Auckland members who organized the Yoga Day event

Ekal's mission and her commitment to promoting its values locally.

A highlight of the event was a heartfelt talk by young Susri Asmi Goyal, daughter of Sri Ashish Goyal (Organising Secretary, Auckland Chapter). She captivated the audience with her insights on how yoga can positively influence the youth.

Ms. Vidya Teke, who learned yoga in her early years from sadhus visiting her hometown Nasik during the Kumbh Mela, led a rejuvenating and informative yoga session. This was followed by Ms. Neelu Taore from the

Art of Living Foundation NZ, who introduced practical meditation techniques for today's fast-paced world. The chanting of "Ram" filled the hall with a divine resonance, creating a serene atmosphere.

Sri Ashish Goyal then energetically presented the Ekal Foundation's mission and impact through a compelling PowerPoint presentation. The event concluded with a vote of thanks by trustee Sri Nandan Modak, after which guests enjoyed refreshment packs and tea, graciously arranged by Ms. Shivani Aurora.



Yoga session held in Auckland









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## Smt. Sonal Rasiwasia



Ekal Abhiyan's revered mentor Ma Shyam Gupta has always referred to Ekal's work as the sacred mission of Lord Shri Ram.

He often draws a parallel between how Shri Ram integrated the forest-dwelling (vanvasi) communities—particularly through his interactions with Nishadraj and Mata Shabari—and how Ekal karyakartas and committee members work today to bring such communities into the mainstream.

While the grassroots volunteers accelerate the work on the ground, the committee members, through their familial affection, guidance, and efforts in resource mobilization, play an equally pivotal role. One such committee member is Smt. Sonal Rasiwasia. Originally from Hisar, Haryana, she was born on February 26, 1968, in Gangtok, Sikkim, where her father ran a business. In 1984, her family moved to New Delhi. In those days, it wasn't common for girls in Marwari families to pursue higher education, but her father ensured her elder sister became a doctor. Smt. Sonal, too, aspired to contribute meaningfully to society and was preparing for the IAS examination. However, destiny had other plans, and she was soon married, becoming a living example of the phrase "Chhat mangani, patt byaah" (a whirlwind engagement and wedding).

Though family life became her focus, her yearning to serve society remained alive. She didn't know what to do, but she knew she wanted to contribute. As her younger son started nursery school, Smt. Sonal began painting as a hobby. Despite no formal training, she steadily honed her skills. She later mastered the traditional Tanjore art form, and since 1996, she has been training students in it. Encouragement from family and society boosted her confidence, and as her artwork gained



### A Graceful, Humble and Artistic Soul

recognition, she began receiving honors at major events in the Marwari community.

Despite these accolades, her heart longed to do something impactful for the nation and society. Inspired by the belief "Nation always comes first" and guided by her brother Sri Laxminarayan Goel and Sri Subhash Agrawal, she joined the Ekal Abhiyan. When asked why Ekal specifically, she said: "In Hindu dharma, daan (charity) holds immense value. I've seen my family donate for religious causes. But after joining Ekal, I realized that donating for education and values has a much deeper impact. A financial contribution that empowers someone through education transforms an entire generation and ultimately benefits the nation. That, to me, is the truest form of dharma."

Ekal Bharat Lok Shiksha Parishad (BLSP) was established in 2000, and in 2007, Smt. Sonal formed the women's wing. Today, over 500 urban women actively contribute to Ekal's various activities. She currently serves as the National Head of the Women's Wing of Ekal BLSP. Every year during Makar Sankranti, she not only raises funds to gift Ekal's full-time workers but also lovingly selects each gift herself. To ensure urban women deeply understand Ekal's

mission, she has led them on multiple field visits (van yatras) to villages. She is also one of the most successful fundraisers, especially among influential women in society.

Her natural leadership skills make her a representative of woman power at every major Ekal event. After joining Ekal, her artistic side flourished even more. Her paintings—especially of religious symbols—have been presented as gifts to esteemed dignitaries at Ekal functions. Some prominent personalities she has personally gifted her art to include:

- Former PMs Late Dr. Manmohan Singh and Late Atal Bihari Vajpayee
- CM Yogi Adityanath, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Governor Anandiben Patel
- Baba Ramdev, Dr. Mohan Bhagwat, Swami Govind Dev Giri, Swami Balaknand Giri, and poet Kumar Vishwas

One of her artworks depicting Lord Hanuman, representing India-US friendship, found a place at the White House and was presented to former President Barack Obama—a proud moment in her artistic journey. She is also proficient in 3D painting.

Religious at heart, Smt. Sonal has a special gift for bringing women together. The vibrant and well-structured women's wing of Ekal BLSP is a direct result of her hard work and talent for fostering unity. Despite her numerous responsibilities, she remains humble, approachable, and deeply affectionate toward all Ekal volunteers. She attributes her success to her family, including her Ekal family, and gives special credit to her husband, Sri Satish Rasiwasia, saying: "Without his encouragement and support, I would not have been able to dedicate myself to art and to the Ekal movement."

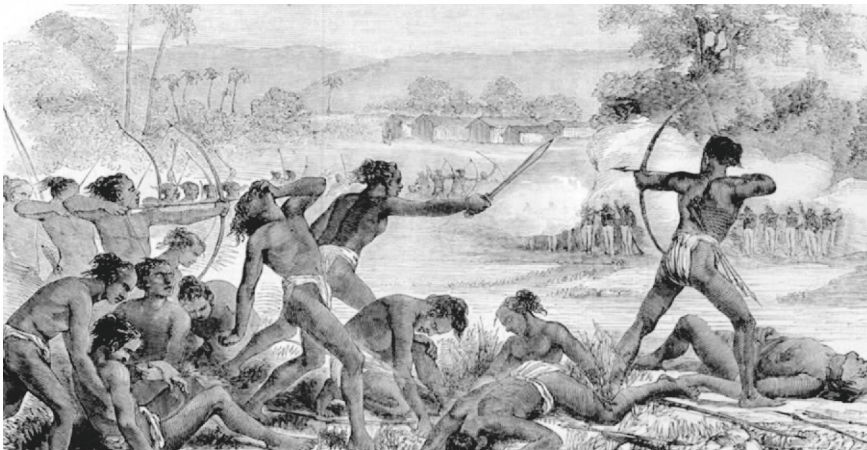
**Siddharth Shankar Gautam**  
Abhiyan Prachar Prabhari, Ekal Abhiyan







## Freedom Fighter Veer Gundadhur and the Bhumkal Rebellion of Bastar



The Bhumkal Rebellion of 1910 stands as one of the most significant tribal uprisings in the history of Bastar, Chhattisgarh. It shook the foundations of British colonial rule. The people of Bastar, who had long suffered under exploitative policies of the British and the remnants of feudal rule, finally erupted in revolt under the charismatic tribal leader, Gundadhur.

Bastar, located in southern Chhattisgarh, is a dense forest region inhabited by tribes like the Gonds, Dhurwas, Halbas, and Bhatras. The region, enriched by the Indravati River, had remained largely untouched by external influences for centuries. The tribal communities worshipped forest deities and depended on nature for their livelihood. Despite various regimes—from the Kakatiyas in the 14th century to the Delhi Sultanate, Mughals, and Marathas—these rulers rarely interfered in tribal life.

However, with the rise of the British East India Company and the establishment of direct colonial rule in

the 19th century, the British began systematically intruding into tribal life. The turning point came with the Indian Forest Act of 1878, which categorized forests into reserved, protected, and village forests. The most fertile forests were declared 'reserved,' barring tribal access, and violating this law brought severe punishments. This deeply impacted the tribal economy and lifestyle.

In 1905, the British planned to reserve two-thirds of Bastar's forests and banned shifting cultivation and hunting. Tribals were subjected to forced labor (begar), high land rents, police harassment, and contractor exploitation. A severe famine in 1907-08 further deepened their misery. In 1908, contractors were allowed to fell trees in reserved forests for railway use, depriving locals of their primary livelihood. Even traditional brewing of country liquor was criminalized. The seeds of rebellion had been sown.

The most affected were the Dhurwa tribes in the forests of Kanker, where the

forest reservation began. Symbols of rebellion, such as mango twigs, clay pellets, and chilies, spread across villages—much like chapatis and lotus flowers had signaled the Revolt of 1857.

On February 2, 1910, the Bhumkal Rebellion erupted under the leadership of Gundadhur, a native of Nethanar village. Details of his early life are scarce, but he emerged as a formidable leader. The rebellion began by looting the grain stores in Pushpal village to redistribute food among the poor. Soon, British outposts, schools, and homes of officials and moneylenders in Jagdalpur were attacked.

The uprising spread rapidly to 46 out of Bastar's 84 parganas, temporarily pushing the British out. However, this victory was short-lived. British forces, aided by the betrayal of tribal ally Sonu Manjhi, surrounded the rebels in Aalnar village. Many were killed, but Gundadhur escaped under the cover of night - never to be seen again.



Though the rebellion was not fully organized and lacked weaponry, it forced the British to reconsider their forest policies. The number of forests to be reserved in 1910 was reduced by half. Gundadhur became an immortal hero among Bastar's tribes, and his bravery continues to inspire generations. His name is still sung in the forests of Kanker, a symbol of resistance and pride for the people of Bastar. ■

**Source:** Wikipedia and Internet





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