

THE FLOWING STREAM OF EKAL — IN EASTERN UTTAR PRADESH —



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EKAL PRAYAS

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Awake, Arise and Achieve



Dear Reader,

On behalf of Ekal Sansthan, this time Siddharth Shankar Gautam observed the social and cultural changes brought about by the Ekal Abhiyan in Eastern Uttar Pradesh and has written exactly as he saw. In rural regions, the streams of education, values, health, self-reliance, and village development are flowing — an experience you will feel while reading this Ground Zero Report.

This year, on the festival of Raksha Bandhan, the children of the Ekal Vidyalaya in Alipur village, Palwal region, tied rakhis to the Hon'ble Prime Minister Sri Narendra Modi. This golden opportunity was made possible through the efforts of the Women's Committee of Ekal Vanbandhu Parishad. The children introduced the Prime Minister to the value-based education they have received in their Ekal school. Across the country too, Ekal sisters celebrated Raksha Bandhan with equal enthusiasm — sometimes with brave soldier brothers, sometimes with policemen, doctors, or social workers.

On August 15, Ekal Abhiyan too was immersed in the colours of patriotism. From remote rural areas to border regions, Ekal Karyakartas and committee office-bearers enthusiastically joined society in flag-hoisting ceremonies.

At the Chintan Baithak held in Kolkata, valuable guidance (pathey) was received from RSS Sarkaryavah Sri Dattatreya Hosabale ji and Sah-Sarkaryavah and Ekal Abhiyan's Sampark Adhikari Sri Alok Kumar. Without doubt, this will be instrumental in fulfilling the future action plans of the campaign.

Last month, several divisions organized Van Yatras. A Van Yatra is a medium that gives society an opportunity to connect with Ekal. The direct working system, interaction with Karyakartas, and the visible changes in society through Ekal — all are experienced through Van Yatras, which also contribute to the expansion of the organization.

Sri Atul Shah: a personality who made service his very life. His skills as an organizer and his determination in fulfilling social responsibilities inspire every individual associated with Ekal Abhiyan to work selflessly for the good of society.

Beyond this, through organizational meetings, social activities, and cultural events, the work of Ekal continues to move forward steadily.

Until then, we shall meet again in the next issue.

Yours

Manju Didi

manju@ekal.org

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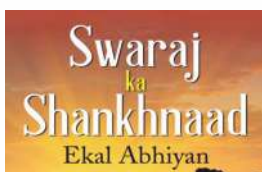
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The quality of Ekal schools is assessed through two key parameters:

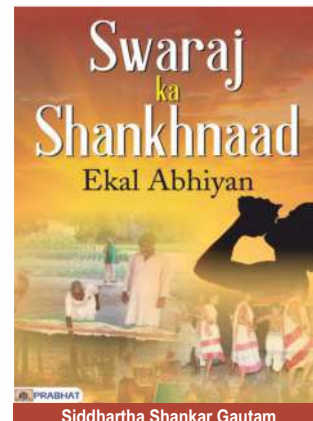
1. Regularity of the School

The regular functioning of an Ekal school is ensured primarily through the involvement of the Gram Samiti (village committee), which takes full responsibility for its administration. This model is rooted in the principle of Swavlamban (self-dependence). As this process evolves, it has significantly contributed to making Ekal schools

schools' hinges on the efficiency of the teachers. This efficiency is directly tied to the training they receive at various levels—zonal, regional, unit, and chapter.

There are two main categories of full-time Ekal workers:

- **Planning Group:** Responsible for administrative tasks and the strategic expansion of the movement.



The Ekal Abhiyan office reports that approximately 90% of trainers are regular and skilled in their responsibilities, resulting in a smooth-functioning system. With no overlap in responsibilities between the expansion and training teams—from the unit to the central level—there is complete harmony and cooperation between the two, much like any well-coordinated team.

A Balanced Approach to Growth

The integration of village self-sufficiency with the mission's expansion only proves fruitful when the quality and regularity of Ekal schools remain uncompromised. When this balance is sustained, natural and organic growth follows.

It is important to note that while the expansion of the Ekal movement is its external aspect, the quality of its schools represents its soul or internal essence. These two dimensions are complementary and together serve a shared goal—motivating the Ekal workforce and sustaining high morale.

The widespread respect Ekal has garnered in society through its expansion efforts further uplifts and motivates its workers, which in turn enhances the quality of education offered. Thus, growth and quality have evolved hand in hand.



The Economic & Social Base of the Organization

more self-reliant and consistent in their operations.

According to the Ekal Abhiyan office report, nearly 85% of Ekal schools fall under Category A and B, indicating strong performance. Ekal firmly believes that with rising self-dependence, schools will continue to become more regular and effective in fulfilling their educational mission.

2. Standard of Education

The educational quality in Ekal

- **Training Group:** Free from administrative duties, this group is dedicated solely to skilfully training teachers and enhancing their capabilities.

Even at the central level, workers are categorized by their roles, ensuring focused performance. This clear distinction between planning and training roles guarantees that the quality of training directly impacts the teachers' effectiveness, thereby improving the overall standard of education.





Mahila Samiti at village level

In contrast, many government-run village schemes have largely failed despite having established systems and resources. The key missing link is a committed and culturally aligned workforce. Indian rural society resonates more with the language of bhakti (devotion) and shraddha (faith). To tap into this sentiment, Ekal introduced Satsang programmes aimed at instilling moral values.

As villagers began to assemble regularly and the movement expanded, they were introduced to discipline through responsibilities assigned within the Ekal framework. What began as a moral and educational initiative through Satsang has now evolved into a comprehensive rural development project.

Grassroots Empowerment

As part of this transformation, Ekal encourages youth groups to dedicate themselves to the welfare of nearby villages. These groups, known as Ram Sadhak Toli, are agents of social transformation, referred to as Ram Kaj (the work of Lord Ram).

At the village level, Ekal has formed eight subcommittees, each focused on a specific area of community development. Each subcommittee comprises seven members, meaning 56 young villagers are actively involved in carrying forward the mission. These subcommittee members also become

associate members of the Gram Sangathan by offering voluntary contributions, symbolizing their ownership and accountability for village development.

Below are the eight subcommittees and their primary responsibilities:

1. Shiksha Samiti (Education Committee)

This committee monitors the teaching quality and overall functioning of the Ekal school. It raises awareness among villagers about the Right to Information (RTI) Act, empowering them to seek accountability from schools and teachers. The committee ensures that villagers aged 10 to 40 receive appropriate education.

2. Aarogya Samiti (Health Committee)

Led by a woman known as the Aarogya Sevika, this committee focuses on village health. The Sevika, trained by Ekal, ensures health protocols are followed and distributes essential medicines. She also mobilizes women from various government schemes like Aasha, Anganwadi, and ANM for weekly Satsang sessions where they are encouraged to actively support and implement public health schemes.

3. Vikas Samiti (Development Committee)

This committee educates villagers on the use and benefits of organic fertilizers and promotes water

conservation practices. Ekal school students are also taught how to prepare organic fertilizers from an early stage.

4. Jagran Samiti (Awareness Committee)

Its goal is to inform villagers about their rights under the RTI Act and other government welfare schemes like MNREGA, Old Age Pension, Public Distribution System, and Mid-Day Meal. It also promotes tree plantation and environmental awareness.

5. Satsang Samiti (Spiritual Committee)

Responsible for organizing weekly Satsang sessions, this committee ensures proper training for the Satsang leaders and encourages participation from all castes to promote social harmony within the village.

6. Mahila Samiti (Women's Committee)

This committee works towards eradicating alcohol addiction from the village and empowering women through active involvement in community upliftment.

7. Yuva Samiti (Youth Committee)

The youth committee's mission is to safeguard villages from both internal and external exploitation, instilling a spirit of self-protection and leadership among young people.

8. Sangathan Samiti (Organisation Committee)

This committee fosters village unity by organizing cultural and spiritual festivals like Ram Mahotsav, Krishna Janmashtami, and the Annual Festival. It also promotes self-reliance and instils a sense of dignity and pride among villagers. ■

(To be Continued...)



Colours of Patriotism with Ekal



EKAL'S CHILDREN TIED RAKHI TO THE PRIME MINISTER

A Message of National Service



Under the banner of Vanbandhu Parishad Delhi Mahila Samiti, ten young students of Ekal Vidyalaya made August 9, 2025, an unforgettable day by tying Rakhi to the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Sri Narendra Modi, thereby celebrating the sacred festival of brotherhood in a unique way.

The children came from Alipur village, under Sanch Tigaon, Anchal Palwal. They were accompanied by Sanch Pramukh Smt. Lalita and Acharya Smt. Lakshmi. Along with tying Rakhi to the Prime Minister, the children also presented patriotic songs. Their innocent smiles and heartfelt performance deeply touched the Prime Minister, who blessed them warmly and wished them a bright future.

A special role in making this extraordinary occasion possible was played by Smt. Madhurika Mundhra, President of the Delhi Mahila Samiti. The intimation from the Prime Minister's Office was received barely two days in advance, yet under the leadership of Smt. Madhurika Mundhra, the dedication of the Mahila Samiti, the support of Delhi Chapter President Smt. Sangeeta Gupta, and the active cooperation of all volunteers, this inspiring programme was successfully organized.

This celebration not only highlighted the cultural and emotional significance of Raksha Bandhan but also conveyed a deeper message—that the little lamps of the Ekal family are keeping alive the flame of love and service towards the nation.

HAPPY
**Raksha
Bandhan**
By Ekal Chapters



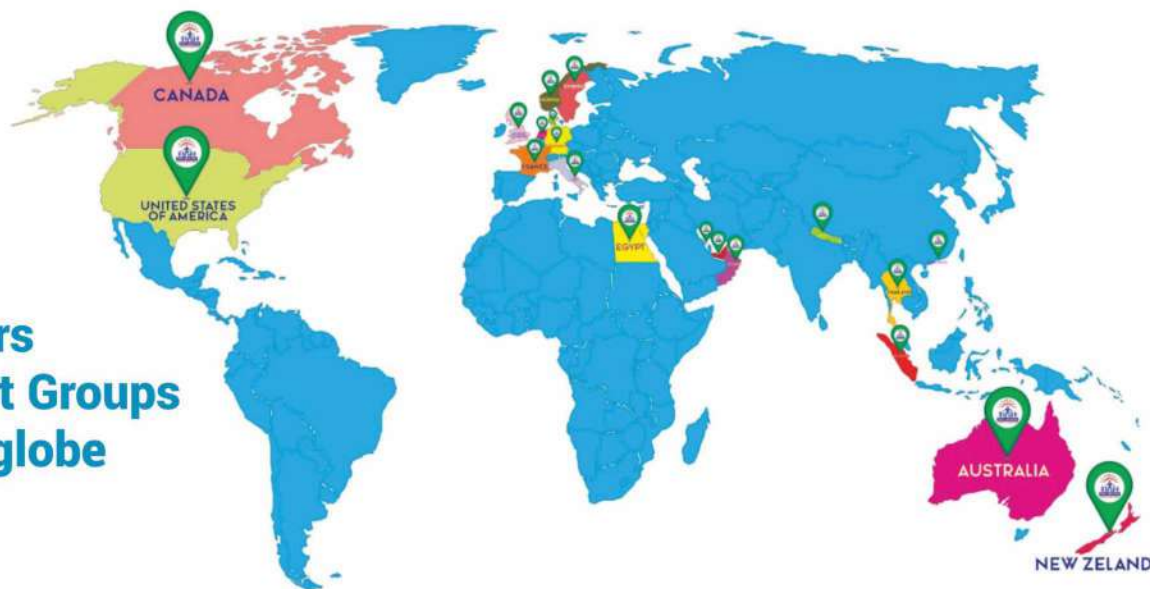


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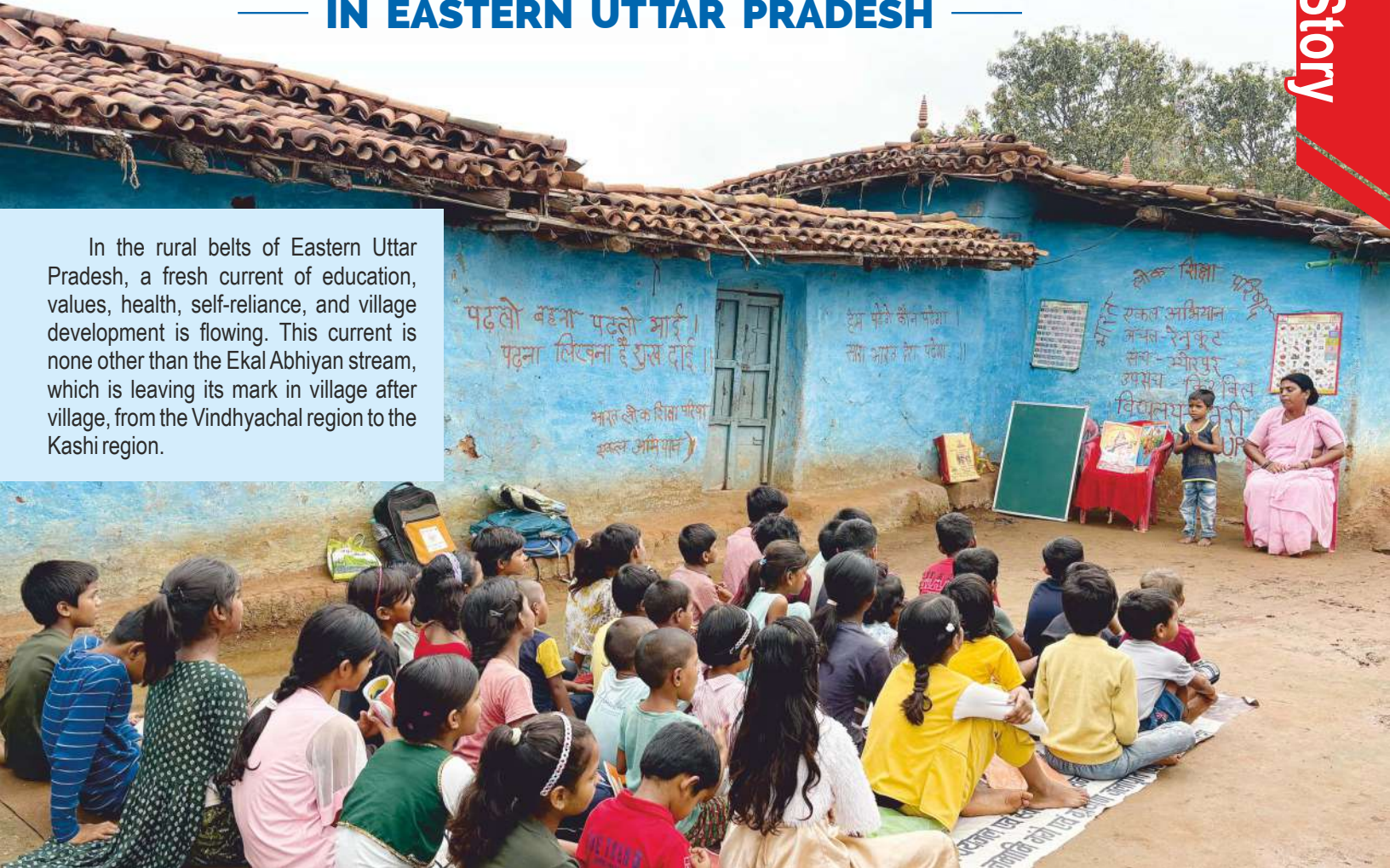
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THE FLOWING STREAM OF EKAL

— IN EASTERN UTTAR PRADESH —

In the rural belts of Eastern Uttar Pradesh, a fresh current of education, values, health, self-reliance, and village development is flowing. This current is none other than the Ekal Abhiyan stream, which is leaving its mark in village after village, from the Vindhyachal region to the Kashi region.



As per the divisional structure, Eastern Uttar Pradesh has been divided into two parts. The Vindhyachal division comprises Renukoot, Sonbhadra, Chunar Garh, Mirzapur, Sant Ravidas Nagar, and Deendayal Nagar areas, while the Kashi division includes Sarnath, Babatpur, Krishnanagar, Saidpur, Ghazipur, Aryamangarh, and Jaunpur. Together, these two divisions cover 13 areas with 147 clusters, under which 3,641 Ekal Vidyalayas are being run. Here, 56,096 boys and 54,906 girls are receiving education.

To promote the use of technology in rural education, tablet-based e-learning is being conducted in 123 schools across 5 clusters. Alongside, two IVD centers, two Ekal-on-Wheels vans, and three Ekal Shrihari Rath are operating in the division to spread awareness, cultural values, and rural development. Furthermore, 34 Ekal Vyas Katha narrators are nurturing the local mindset with the essence of traditional values.

Ekal's impact is not limited to education alone. In the division, 1,763 nutrition gardens have been developed, emerging as beacons of hope in the fight against malnutrition. Forty-five Arogya Sevikas are spreading the message of healthy living through health services and innovative practices. Meanwhile, 1,539 farmers have turned towards organic farming, thereby not only protecting the environment but also providing society with safe and pure food grains.

During my recent travels, I visited seven areas. Conversations with villagers revealed a clear truth—that Ekal is not merely an educational campaign, but a comprehensive movement for rural upliftment. The light of knowledge shining in children's eyes, the spread of health and confidence among women, and the adoption of organic methods by farmers—all together are scripting a new story of transformation in this region.



Ekal Vidyalaya Overcomes Geographic Challenges in Vanvasi Region



Kesari Pur Ekal Vidyalaya of Akhari, Babatpur Anchal

Renukoot area is predominantly a Vanvasi (tribal) region, where hilly terrain often creates geographical challenges in carrying out activities. Yet, the dedication and resilience of Ekal workers consistently overcome these obstacles. Since 2006, Ekal Vidyalayas have been running here, and today, 326 villages across 12 clusters host Ekal schools. Remarkably, over 50 of these schools are in villages where there is neither mobile network nor proper transport,

yet the work of Ekal Abhiyan continues to amaze everyone.

The Myorpur cluster in Renukoot is considered a progressive unit. In its village Devari, I personally witnessed the functioning of an Ekal Vidyalaya. Thirty-five-year-old Acharya Suman Devi was teaching children with the expertise of a seasoned teacher. She explained that although the village has a government school up to class 8, the attraction of the Ekal Vidyalaya is so

strong that instead of the 30 enrolled children, more than 40 often attend. While managing such numbers within limited time is a challenge, she has grown used to it.

Whether it is 6-year-old Diya, 7-year-old Anushka or Anuradha, or 10-year-olds Roshni, Suraj, and Gungun - all are delighted to learn in an environment enriched with values at the Ekal Vidyalaya. Shri Ram Awadh Prajapati, a member of the village Ekal committee, shared that the children have developed a new confidence through Ekal education, especially a keen eagerness to learn something new.

During my visit, I also met 19-year-old Ms. Kajal Soni, daughter of the Ekal Acharya, herself a former student of this Ekal school. Kajal now supports her own studies by earning thousands of rupees through the Fino Mitra app, helping villagers with financial transactions and mobile recharges. Similarly, another

E-Education Transforms Learning Standards in Naxal-Affected Region



In remote rural areas of India, it is rare for a child to even see a computer in a government school. But if that same child happens to be a student of

an Ekal Vidyalaya, he or she may well be studying through a tablet. Yes, you read that correctly and this has been made possible through Ekal E-Education.

An innovative initiative is being carried out in 123 Ekal schools across 5 clusters of Eastern Uttar Pradesh, where children are being taught through e-learning. Since 2023, 25 Ekal schools under the Rajgarh cluster of Mirzapur region have adopted tablet-based learning.

During my travels, I visited Raikara

and Raikari villages, where Acharya Shashi Kumari and Acharya Sumanlata were effortlessly teaching children through tablets. The children too appeared at ease with this innovation, displaying enthusiasm and eagerness to learn new things. Both schools have enrolments of about 30 children each.

Beyond these, tablet-based e-learning is also being conducted in 18 other villages of the cluster, including Manihan, Atari, Garhwa, Lalpur, and Devpura. For a Naxal-affected region, this is truly a significant achievement.





alumna, 22-year-old Ms. Laxmi Rani, is pursuing ITI in Kopa Trade and earning Rs. 10,000 per month as a teacher in a private school. Former Acharya, 30-year-old Ms. Mamta Devi, now serves as an efficient coordinator of the cluster. Kajal, Laxmi, and Mamta regularly return to the school, spending time with the children, who in turn learn from their experiences.

I also visited the Ekal Vidyalaya in Kesari Pur village, Akhari cluster of Babatpur area, where 29-year-old Acharya Geeta Devi teaches. While the

government school in the village runs only up to class 5, the Ekal school fills this crucial gap. Known for the quality of its teaching and values, the Kesari Pur school enjoys high repute in the region. After classes, with Geeta Devi's support, villagers gather daily in the temple premises for satsang.

One unique aspect of this Ekal Vidyalaya is the active involvement of the women's village committee. All its members' children study in the school, and they encourage other women to send their children as well. Among them

are Anshika, daughter of Village Head Smt. Urmila Devi; Srishti, daughter of member Pooja Verma; Arpita and Aradhana, daughters of Smt. Asha Devi; Aryan and Anshika, children of Smt. Pushpa Devi; Srishti and Aditi, daughters of Soni Devi; Aransh and Arya, children of Pooja Patel; and Priyanshi Singh, daughter of Smt. Purnima Singh. These mothers not only motivate others but also monitor the school's daily functioning and extend every possible assistance to Acharya Geeta Devi.

IVD Myorpur: Empowering Lives with Skills, Technology, and Sustainable Farming

At the IVD (Integrated Village Development) Center in Myorpur, several inspiring success stories are taking shape.

Nineteen-year-old Ms. Akanksha Kumari earns Rs. 3,000 per month by teaching computer classes at the center while continuing her own advanced computer training. Similarly, Ms. Sangeeta Devi (28), who worked as a

Hindi teacher until 2016 but had to leave her job due to family responsibilities, first trained in tailoring and is now learning computers to rebuild her career and stand on her own feet.

The IVD's Beauty Parlor Training Center is run by 25-year-old Ms. Nidhi Kumari, who completed an ITI beautician course from Aditya Rural Technology Park. During the wedding



IVD Jakhini: Making Rural Society Self-Reliant

Since April 2024, an IVD (Integrated Village Development) center has been running in Jakhini village of the Sarnath area, having previously operated in Badehni

village. Center coordinator Mr. Prabhakar Pandey informed that the center is equipped with 10 computers and 7 sewing machines, through which rural men and women are honing their skills. Four batches of computer training and two batches of tailoring training are conducted daily.

At the tailoring unit, trainer Ms. Neelam Patel introduced me to 21-year-old Ms. Kritika Singh, who completed the January–March 2025 batch in stitching. She now earns about Rs. 2,000 per month by doing

tailoring work from home. Similarly, 23-year-old Ms. Archana Kumari has also trained here and is now earning Rs. 1,500 per month. 21-year-old Ms. Tanu Singh first learned tailoring and is currently pursuing computer training at the center to secure her future livelihood.

So far, 117 women have become proficient in tailoring through this center. In addition, 26 children are enrolled in the current computer batch, while the total number of students who have learned computers here has reached 331.





season, Nidhi earns between Rs. 25,000–30,000 per month through home-based makeup services, while in other months she earns around Rs. 5,000–6,000.

IVD is also actively engaged in farmer training, which includes preparation of organic fertilizers, pest control methods, seed and plant distribution, field inspections, and guidance. So far, 940 farmers (167 women and 773 men) have received training at the center. In August 2025, 1,400 plants were distributed free of cost to farmer families, with each family receiving four fruit-bearing plants and two shade-giving trees.

On the center's land (2 bighas), a nutrition garden has been developed, cultivating cauliflower, okra, pointed gourd, tomatoes, mango, lemon, and banana. The vegetables grown here are also used in the meals prepared for workers and guests at the center.

During my visit to the IVD center, a Kisan Gram Sabha was organized in Babhndiha village, attended by Gramothan Foundation's P4 Zonal Supervisor Anugrah Shri Narayan Singh, P4 Zonal State Coordinator Prabhakar Pandey, senior workers, and local committee members. Fifteen farmers participated and appreciated IVD's farmer-friendly initiatives. The IVD is motivating farmers to reduce the use of

urea and adopt organic farming practices. Almost every family in the villages now maintains a nutrition garden. For instance, in Bhaluhi village, Kamla Devi, Rukmini Devi, Vimla Devi, and farmer Ram Singh are using saplings and organic fertilizers provided by IVD. In Babhndiha village, farmers Asharfi Lal, Ramdhani, Rekha Rani, and Usha Devi have completely stopped using urea. Farmer Mahipat is preparing organic manure from cow dung and helping others to do the same. In Devari village, Shri Jageshwar Prasad has built a vermicompost pit with support from IVD workers, while Shri Ramsharan cultivates his entire farmland using purely organic methods.

Ekal-on-Wheel Takes Computer Training Door-to-Door

In Sonebhadra region's Shivdwar cluster, the Ekal-on-Wheel initiative is bringing computer training directly to homes in Sunheri village. A bus converted into a mobile computer van halts at three fixed spots in the village, where children attend classes batch-wise to learn computer skills. The EOW trainer, Veer Pratap, himself once learned computers in this very bus and today teaches children inside it. Currently, 9 children are enrolled in the first batch, 15 in the second, and 6 in the

third. Through the Ekal-on-Wheel program, 525 children across 38 villages of Sonebhadra region have already received computer training.

Similarly, another Ekal-on-Wheel operates in Mirzapur region, where 1,030 children from 70 villages have been trained comprising 855 school children and 99 college students. Today, Ekal-on-Wheel needs no introduction; its quality teaching methods are making it increasingly popular. Many children trained here



have even begun earning livelihoods through computer-related work.

Arogya Project: Building Healthy Villages Through Healthy Bodies

The Ekal Arogya Project aims to spread health awareness in rural and tribal areas. Its core activities include preventive health education, primary healthcare at the village level, yoga and Ayurvedic practices, nutritional guidance, and a focus on maternal and child health. Local women are trained as Arogya Sevikas, who deliver basic health services and

awareness in villages.

In Eastern Uttar Pradesh, the project is being implemented in three clusters - Myorpur, Babhani, and Durga Mandir. During my travels, I visited Toga village in the Durga Mandir cluster, where I personally witnessed the functioning of the program. On this occasion, Dr. Mukul Bhatia,

Central Guide of the Arogya Project, Mr. Amresh Kumar, Division Arogya Head, along with other senior workers, were present.

Currently, the project is active in 30 villages of the Durga Mandir cluster. Ms. Amrita Devi, the Arogya Sevika of Toga village, has been serving the community for the past 5 years. She





Arogya Sevika Susri Amrita Devi

has helped establish nutrition gardens in every household and visits two homes daily. Using the ARC app, she has uploaded contact data of 118 families, and on the Telemedicine app

she has recorded treatment data for over 150 villagers.

At the gathering, Dr. Mukul Bhatia explained the project in detail to over 50 villagers. He also guided them on important issues such as water conservation, environmental protection, traditional home remedies, and the use of organic fertilizers. During his address, he demonstrated the process of constructing soak pits. Expressing satisfaction, he noted that 50 of the 250 homes in the village now have soak pits.

In the same Sanch, I met Arogya Sevika Ms. Sushila Devi in the village of Lakshminpur, who is spreading health awareness among the population of over 3,000 people. She is also responsible for the village of Pasainya as its Arogya Sevika. She has ensured the construction of nutrition gardens in every household and facilitated the making of more than 30 soak pits. Ms. Sushila Devi is well-versed in using traditional home remedies for common treatments and is actively engaged in addressing women's health-related issues.

“By 2030, Arogya Prakalp Yojana will reach 10,000 villages in India”

“The future of Arogya Prakalp Yojana is bright. By 2030, the plan aims to reach 10,000 villages across India, and thereafter the goal is to double this reach every year. However, the biggest challenge at present is human resources, which is being systematically strengthened.” This was stated by Dr. Mukul Bhatia, the Central Guide of the Arogya Prakalp Yojana, who shared these insights during his field visit.

He explained that the idea of health initiatives was conceived along with the inception of Ekal's education program. Shri Bhaurao Deoras also believed that alongside education, health was one of the most effective means for rural upliftment. Health initiatives play a vital role in preventing religious conversions in villages as well.

The first such experiment was conducted in 1995 by Shri Shyam Gupta, who opened a health center in every Sanch of Odisha, where doctors were sent to rural areas. Formally, the Arogya Prakalp Yojana was launched in 1999, and in 2003, the Arogya Foundation of India was registered.

Later, in 2017, Dr. Suresh Agarwal, Dr. Satpathy, and Dr. Sanghvi jointly introduced the Vanushadhi (herbal medicine) treatment system, which received a positive and encouraging response.

Dr. Mukul Bhatia shared that during the Covid-19 pandemic, the Arogya Foundation of India played a crucial role in protecting rural India from its devastation. Through online consultations, daily reporting, post-Covid follow-ups, and Covid isolation centers set up in GRCs, villagers received significant benefits.

Speaking about the budget of the initiative, Dr. Bhatia explained that the expenditure for running the Ekal Arogya Prakalp Yojana in one Sanch for three years is Rs. 35 lakhs. At present, the program is operational in 106 Sanchs across the country, which requires an expenditure of Rs. 3,710 lakhs for every three-year cycle. In Jharkhand and Rajasthan, two “i-Vans” are in operation, while in Assam and Gujarat, an “Eye-care Project” is running. Under this, two health workers travel on motorcycles, conducting eye check-ups and providing basic treatments. Patients diagnosed with cataracts are referred to health centers for surgery and advanced care.



Dr. Mukul Bhatia explaining to villagers in Togga about the Arogya Prakalp





Social Awareness through Ekal Shrihari Rath



In village Vishunpur, villagers performed worship of the Shrihari Rath temple

In Sant Ravidas Nagar, the Ekal Shrihari Rath has been in operation since January 2025. During my field visit, I went to the village of Vishunpur and witnessed the devotional Shrihari Rath Poojan ceremony. In the presence of over 50 villagers, the village head, Shri Mansaram, along with his wife, performed worship of the Shri Ram Darbar installed in the Shrihari Rath. After the Bharat Mata aarti, prasad was distributed to everyone. Later in the evening, villagers gathered to watch Ramanand Sagar's Ramayana on the large screen fitted to the Rath.

In June 2025, through the Shrihari Rath, 32 villagers took an oath to give up addictions, 94 families were initiated as Hanuman Parivar, and 43 families received copies of the Hanuman Chalisa. In July 2025, 62

more villagers pledged de-addiction, 75 families became Hanuman Parivar, and 32 families received the Hanuman Chalisa.

In July 2025, Gram Utsav (village festivals) were celebrated in 18 villages with the participation of 209 men and 211 women. In these same 18 villages, traditional Gram Devta Poojan (worship of village deities) was also conducted, attended by 46 men and 54 women. The movement of the Shrihari Rath across villages has not only spread the values of Sanatan traditions but has also encouraged villagers to abandon social evils such as untouchability, discrimination, and casteism. Moreover, the presence of the Ekal Shrihari Rath has curbed the divisive influence of Christian missionary activities in rural areas.

Villagers uniting through Satsang

Under the aegis of the Ekal Srihari Satsang Samiti, the daily, weekly, and monthly satsangs being held in villages are bringing social unity among the villagers. That is, without any discrimination or untouchability, the villagers collectively participate in satsang in the temple premises with the support of Ekal volunteers.

In Renukoot region, the regional Vyas, 65-year-old Sri Dharman Prasad, shared that through satsang, many efforts have been made for de-addiction in the area. In the region, especially in Babhani, Bijpur, and along the Jharkhand-Bihar border, religious conversions of Hindus were taking place, which have been significantly

reduced through satsang. Sri Dharman Prasad himself conducts 4–5 one-day discourses and more than 10 satsangs every month. There are four Vyas in Renukoot region who, under his guidance, are strengthening cultural and moral values in the area.

During my visit, I attended a satsang at the Panchayat Secretariat of village Belwadh under Pipri Sanch, led by the regional Vyas. After worshiping Bharat Mata and Saraswati Mata, more than 25 villagers began a musical satsang. It was delightful to see the villagers dancing and rejoicing to the bhajans. In the middle of the satsang, a vehicle of the Uttar Pradesh Police arrived, and a senior officer



Satsang programme organized in village Belwadah

sitting inside listened to the satsang. Deeply moved, he gave Rs. 500 to the village head to arrange prasad for everyone. He also praised the Ekal Abhiyan.

Similarly, in village Barwa Tola of Sanch Babhani, a satsang was organized under the leadership of Vyas Sri Chandraprakash.





Ekal Kathas Enhancing Social Harmony



In village Chorati Dandi, villagers listening to the Shiv Charitra Katha narrated by Sanch Vyas Chameli

Under the aegis of the Ekal Shrihari Satsang Samiti, Kathas (spiritual discourses) are being organized across villages, leading to positive changes in the lifestyle, values, and spirituality of villagers. Social harmony has increased significantly.

Manoj Kumar, the Anchal Vyas of Sonbhadra region, shared that the area has six Sanch Vyas, who conduct three three-day Kathas and around ten one-day Kathas every month. He mentioned that from the predominantly Vanvasi-

populated village Abadi in Sonbhadra, two Ekal Vyas emerged, inspired by these Kathas. Despite the absence of a temple in the village, Ekal storytellers, through the village committee, are spreading awareness and mobilizing efforts to construct one.

In many villages of the region, the narration of Ramkatha has also led to the revival of cultural traditions such as staging Ramlila during Dussehra. A new wave of awareness towards Hindu faith and practices has emerged.

During my visit, I had the opportunity to listen to Shiv Charitra Katha narrated by Sanch Vyas Smt. Chameli in Chorati Dandi village. A large number of villagers attended the three-hour discourse, after which a community meal (prasadi) was organized with the support of the village committee and villagers.

In villages without an Ekal school, Ekal storytellers approach the village head or Sarpanch for cooperation to host the Katha. On such occasions, the Ekal Gram Samiti arranges musical instruments for the event.

During this month of Shravan, through the efforts of Ekal committees and Vyas Kathakars, pilgrimages were organized where 26 devotees from Bharhari village, 22 from Salaiyadihi, and 8 from Kota village undertook the Kanwar Yatra to Baba Dham, Deoghar. This initiative received tremendous appreciation in the region.

Ekal Workers Inspiring Through Their Resilience

While there are thousands of dedicated Ekal workers in Eastern Uttar Pradesh, some have left a lasting impression through their exceptional commitment and skills.

One such example is 34-year-old Shri Buddhinath Gond of Kundadihi village in Renukoot Anchal, who currently serves as Anchal Gatividhi Pramukh. Associated with the Ekal Abhiyan for 17 years, he has worked tirelessly from the role of Acharya to the Anchal level, leaving his mark of dedication. In 2024, Buddhinath Gond initiated beekeeping and has earned a net profit of Rs. 48,000 so far. He has

also trained Ramkishun of Jampani village, Sonu Markam of Bhalhi village, and Ram Avatar of Bavandeeha village in beekeeping, enabling them to generate income as well. While his family members manage the beekeeping activity, Buddhinath guides them whenever he is free from organizational responsibilities.

Another exemplary worker is 36-year-old Shri Krishna Prasad, Sanch Pramukh of Sanch Bihasda in Mirzapur Anchal. A tailor by profession, he provides work to three artisans at his shop in Ghosipur, paying them Rs. 20,000 – Rs. 25,000



Buddhinath Gond

per month based on their designs and output. When Krishna Prasad first became an Ekal Acharya, he simultaneously pursued tailoring





Krishna Prasad



Virendra Kumar



Vikas Rao

training. Such was his dedication that he would spend his days tailoring and his evenings teaching children at the Ekal school. With perseverance, his skills improved, and so did his reputation and earnings. Today, after covering expenses and wages, he saves over Rs. 20,000 per month. During wedding seasons and the June–July period of school uniform production, his income nearly doubles.

Despite his busy profession, Krishna Prasad devotes more than 20 days each month to Ekal's village outreach, showcasing his extraordinary dedication to the mission. When he is away for organizational work, his artisans manage the shop.

Mirzapur Anchals' Dedicated Ekal Volunteers

In Mirzapur Anchal, Mr. Virendra Kumar, head of Bhatouliganj Sanch and a former student of an Ekal Vidyalaya, has established a strong identity in the field of education. Coming from a very poor family, financial difficulties always stood in the way of his studies. He spent his childhood in an Ekal school and, despite hardships, somehow completed his schooling. His deep bond with Ekal motivated him to become an Acharya at an Ekal

Vidyalaya, with a resolve that he would never abandon teaching. Later, as his financial condition improved, he completed a B.Sc. in Mathematics and began tutoring village children in Mathematics and Science. At present, he teaches 35 students, including 15 extremely poor children free of cost. The income he earns from tuition supports his own higher education expenses.

Similarly, Mr. Ramdas, Chief of Primary Education Training in Mirzapur Anchal, once worked as a tanker driver in Gujarat. When he returned home in 2009, he joined the Ekal movement. While serving as Vijaypur Sanch Pramukh, he inspired more than 10 Ekal Acharyas to join the army, police, ASHA services, and Anganwadi work. Today, all of them are employed in government service.

In Babatpur Anchal, Mr. Vikas Rao, Anchal Campaign Head, is a painter by profession. He has contributed extensively to the Ekal campaign by creating wall paintings. Whenever he has time, he takes up professional painting work, earning about Rs. 5,000 – Rs. 6,000 per month.

During my travels, I met many other Ekal volunteers, workers, and committee members who have not only refined their own skills through

their association with the Ekal Abhiyan but have also inspired others in society to progress.

This ground-zero report testifies that from Vindhyachal to Kashi Anchal, the flowing current of Ekal is transforming rural society making it self-reliant, value-driven, and empowered. ■

Error Correction

In the July–August 2025 issue, on page number 11, the number of Anchal, Sanch, and Vidyalaya in the Brajmandal Sambhag was printed incorrectly. The correct numbers are as follows:

Anchal – 10
Sanch – 116
Vidyalaya – 3480

Siddharth Shankar Gautam
Prachar-Prasar Prabhari,
Ekal Abhiyan

(Support: Santosh Paswan, Ram Kumar, Rajesh Kumar, Ramesh Kumar, Somanath, Jyoti Narayan, Neeraj Kumar, Rita Devi, Vikas Kumar, Yashwant Kumar, Sushil Kumar, Vikas Rao, Rajesh Kumar)

All data used in this article is as of July 2025.





On August 16–17, 2025, a two-day Chintan Meeting of Ekal Abhiyan was held at Hotel Fairfield, New Town, Kolkata under the guidance of RSS Sarkaryavah Ma. Dattatreya Hosabale and in the presence of Sah-Sarkaryavah Ma. Alok Kumar. All Nagar Sangathan, Ekal Gram Sangathan, and some senior Sevavratī Karyakartas of Ekal Abhiyan were invited to this meeting, in which 75 out



Ma. Sarkaryavah Shri Dattatreya Hosabale ji lighting the ceremonial lamp

“ WE SHOULD WORK TO STRENGTHEN EKAL ”

Ekal Abhiyan's Chintan Meeting concluded in Kolkata

of the total 89 invited representatives participated. A special highlight of the meeting was the direct presence of three representatives from Ekal Vidyalaya Foundation of America – Dr. Rakesh Gupta (Chairman), Sri Mahesh Nevani (Vice-Chairman), and Sri Subra Dravid (President).

The meeting commenced with women representatives lighting a lamp before the idol of Maa Bharati during the inaugural session. The stage dignitaries – Ma. Dattatreya Hosabale, Sarkaryavah of Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh; Sri Rajesh Goyal, Rashtriya Abhiyan Prabhari, Ekal Abhiyan and Convener of Ekal Core Committee; Sri Sajan Bansal, Chairman of Arogya Foundation of India – were introduced by Sri Lalan Kumar Sharma, Kendriya Abhiyan Pramukh, Ekal Abhiyan, who was conducting the meeting.

After the introductions, Sri Sajan Bansal delivered the welcome address, in which he emphasized the need to

enhance coordination and dialogue among all dimensions, while also drawing attention to challenges such as lack of quality and mutual trust within the organization, and called upon everyone to work towards effective solutions.

Following the welcome address, Sri Rajesh Goyal presented the preamble of the meeting, in which he shared details of the Ekal Core Committee that was newly formed and announced in Mumbai last year, along with the proceedings of the 11 meetings conducted so far and the important decisions taken therein. He also outlined the structure and schedule of the entire meeting and urged all officials present to participate actively.

In different sessions, along with the representatives of all Nagar Organizations of Ekal Abhiyan, the central subject heads of different dimensions and senior Sevavratī Karyakartas presented their respective topics through PPTs, and introduced the representatives related to their

Ma. Dattatreya Hosabale

subjects. Representatives from Ekal Vidyalaya Foundation of America also the representatives, while presenting their reports, also expressed the expectation of further accelerating the ongoing work in India, along with improvements in quality and the reporting system. In their presentations, all representatives highlighted points such as – the structure of their institution, the status of work, major achievements and innovations, key challenges and effective solutions, future action plans with timelines and support, as well as expectations for coordination with other organizations.

In the presentation on the overall planning of Ekal Abhiyan by the Campaign Head, some special points were placed before the representatives –

- According to the current expansion, 22% of the total work of the campaign falls under tribal and forest-dwelling areas, 18% (64 districts) under border





areas, and the remaining 60% under sensitive and general areas.

- Under the upcoming action plan, special emphasis is laid on expanding work in sensitive and border regions, as well as in Mizoram – the only state that has so far remained outside the expansion coverage – and through various projects, to establish contact in 4 lakh villages.
- Among the external challenges facing the organization, issues such as religious conversions in tribal regions, and conspiracies in sensitive areas by people of other communities to forcibly occupy villagers' lands, were also mentioned.

Among the various proposals presented by Central Campaign In-charge Sri Rajesh Goyal were included – simplifying the structure of village organizations; adopting a policy of not encouraging future joint projects by more than one institution in order to maintain inter-organizational coordination, but instead giving priority to Ekal projects run by a single institution; and the formation of a global evaluation team for confirmation and pre-determination of various projects.

Before the concluding session, Ma. Alok Kumar presented his thoughts on various aspects of Ekal Abhiyan and placed forward some important decisions.

- Within the Sangh Parivar organizations, the economy of Ekal Abhiyan is very strong.
- Among different communities – Scheduled Tribes, Scheduled Castes, and Other Backward Classes – Ekal has satisfactory reach through its Acharyas

and Karyakartas. Other organizations do not have such reach.

- In tribal areas, Ekal alone has access up to 70%; no other organization reaches that far.
- Many works in various fields have been possible only because of the continued presence of Ekal.
- The structure of Ekal Abhiyan is quite good, but it is necessary to adhere to the rules of this structure.
- The system of extending affection and care to the workers should also be considered.
- Ekal Vidyalayas provide only supplementary education. With the presence of Ekal alone, the entry of other anti-national organizations into such areas gets obstructed.
- All members of the organization should cultivate a large-hearted approach, accepting shortcomings as their own and resolving to correct them.

After this, Ma. Alok Kumar announced the reconstituted committee of the Ekal Core Committee as follows:

1. Ma. Alok Kumar
2. Sri Rajesh Goyal (Convener)
3. Sri Laxmi Narayan Goyal
4. Sri Ramesh Sarawgi
5. Smt. Chandalekha Roongta
6. Sri Lalan Sharma
7. Sri Deep Kumar
8. Sri Khemnanda Sapkota
9. Ms. Seema Ajgaonkar

In the end, Ma. Dattatreya delivered the concluding address of the entire meeting. Some of the key points of his address were as follows:

- We should not merely mention problems but also think of their solutions and resolutions.
- A person who remains distant from a problem should place themselves in the position of the one who is thinking about it, so that the true nature of the problem can be understood.
- Statistics only reflect efforts, not emotions. Therefore, while reporting, we should evaluate based on additional qualitative points as well.
- All formal tasks are duties towards society, but it is informal dialogue that represents the true spirit of Ekal. Through this, solutions to almost all problems are possible. Hence, informal discussions must continue.
- Ekal's work should reach sensitive and tribal areas so that the sense of Indianness among the people there is preserved, and Indian culture remains protected.
- Attacks are always made on the weaker sections of society. Therefore, Ekal must be strengthened, and this strengthening should take place both in villages and in towns.
- To ensure that the tribal society accepts Ekal as its own, regular forest visits (Van Yatras) should be conducted.

After the conclusion of the address, the meeting ended in a joyful atmosphere, with everyone resolving to meet again after a year with greater enthusiasm and achievements at new heights, followed by the collective chanting of the Kalyan Mantra. ■

Dr. Lalan Kumar Sharma
Kendriya Abhiyan Pramuk, Ekal Abhiyan





What ₹5,000 Can Really Buy

Understanding the Need of Rural Bharat



In our cities, Rs. 5,000 is hardly noticed. It slips away over a weekend dinner, a pair of shoes, a cab ride, or a mobile bill. But in rural Bharat, this same Rs.5,000 is not just money—it is possibility. It is transformation. It is a seed that grows into dignity and self-reliance.

Here, Rs. 5,000 is not an expense it is an investment. It can turn a homemaker into an entrepreneur, a youth into a skilled professional, or a person with disabilities into a confident business owner. It can keep children in classrooms, put wholesome meals on plates, and replace helplessness with pride. In the villages of Bharat, Rs 5,000 doesn't

merely buy things—it buys dreams, and those dreams lift entire families.

In a country where skyscrapers rise and luxury cars race, there is another India—quiet yet alive, humble yet hopeful. In this India, dignity outshines diamonds. A modest income can rewrite the destiny of a family. And this is the India that Ekal Abhiyan serves—an India where opportunities are rare, but aspirations never die.

We do not go there to build profits—we go there to build people. Our alumni do not measure their success in luxury brands or foreign holidays. Their victories are profound and real education for their children, healthcare for their families, respect in their villages, and freedom from dependence. Their festivals are celebrated not with extravagance, but with gratitude. Their wealth is self-reliance.





As Mahatma Gandhi said, “The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.” At Ekal, empowerment is not charity—it is awakening. It is not about giving from one’s abundance, but about sharing knowledge that ends dependence forever.



Sangeeta’s Thread of Freedom:

Once confined to her home, Sangeeta’s world was small, her hands tied by duty and lack of opportunity. At our Women Empowerment Centre, she learned tailoring. Today, she earns Rs. 5,000 – 6,000 a month, from the same home where she once felt powerless. She now stitches not only clothes, but her own destiny. With a smile, she says, “This is not just income—it is confidence. It is dignity.”



Anuj’s Digital Leap:

Anuj Patel of Prayagraj had never touched a computer. After completing our computer training course, he now earns Rs. 14,000 a month. But beyond

the pay, it is the transformation within him those shines. “I walk differently now,” he says, “because I know I can stand on my own feet.”



Chhaya’s Unspoken Triumph:

Born without the ability to speak or hear, Chhaya Bhasker’s life was once bound by silence. Yet, her spirit was louder than her challenges. Through our tailoring course, she built her own business, earning Rs. 5,000 a month. Her message is powerful: “Disability is not inability. Opportunity changes everything.”



To outsiders, these incomes may look small. But in their homes, they are lifelines—the difference between uncertainty and stability, between dependence and dignity.

Swami Vivekananda’s words

guide us: “Arise, awake, and stop not till the goal is reached.” Our people don’t dream of Ferraris or foreign vacations. Their dreams are rooted in their soil: to feed their families, educate their children, and contribute to their villages.

True empowerment is not about having more—it is about becoming more. Each time we train a woman, a youth, or a farmer, we do more than teach a skill—we light a lamp. That lamp spreads its glow from homes to communities, dissolving the darkness of poverty, despair, and dependence.

This is the India we dream of—self-reliant, strong, and hopeful. An India where every individual, no matter how small their beginning, can rise with dignity and live with purpose.

As Gandhi reminded us, “Be the change you wish to see in the world.”

And together, through Ekal, we are being that change—one life, one skill, one dream at a time. ■

Kr. Bhaskar Sharma
Executive Director,
Ekal Gramothan Foundation





Ekal Study Circle Expands

Footprint in Tamil Nadu

Further, Dr. Gowri will initiate the establishment of an Campus Study Circle at her college, aiming to promote awareness and student engagement.

The Ekal Sansthan Tamil Nadu team will now begin facilitating Ekal Study Circle meetings across colleges



Manju Didi with Tamilnadu team

Key leadership roles assigned and new institutional partnerships on the horizon

In a significant development for the Ekal Sansthan in Tamil Nadu, a successful meeting was held at the Chennai office of Sri Balaji to discuss the future roadmap of the Ekal Study Circle in the state.

Dr. Gowri Ramachandran has taken on the responsibility of serving as Margdarshak and Spokes person for Ekal Sansthan, Tamil Nadu. In her new role, she will also take charge of publishing the monthly E-bulletin, with contributions from all members to be coordinated through her.

Dr. Gowri introduced Dr. Bhooma, Principal of a prominent Chennai-based

institution, who has agreed in principle to sign a MoU with Ekal Sansthan, marking a step toward deeper academic collaboration.

and institutions in the region. For programmes such as the Ekal Rural Immersion (ERI), internships, and the Dream India Tour (DIT) for college students, interested institutions are encouraged to contact Dr. Gowri Ramachandran, the Sansthan Convenor.



Dr. Bhooma, Manju Didi and Dr. Gowri Ramchandran





॥ एकल ॥

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An Evening with Manju Didi

AN INSTITUTION OF INSPIRATION



On August 7th, I had the privilege of joining a small group of Ekal Vidyalaya's most dedicated volunteers for a cozy weekday dinner, graciously hosted by dear friends Ms Chavi and Sri Anupam in their warm and welcoming home. The intimate setting, filled with warmth and camaraderie, soon turned into an evening of profound inspiration.

The highlight was meeting Prof Manju Srivastava, who is fondly known as Manju Didi, a founding pillar of Ekal who has devoted nearly forty years to its mission. Listening to her felt like turning the pages of a living history. With conviction, humility, and a sparkle in her eyes, she transported us to the 1980s, when she visited remote tribal areas grappling with illiteracy, exploitation, and neglect. She recounted moments that

still give her goosebumps - villagers eating squirrels despite living on fertile land that could yield abundant crops, communities unaware of their own resources, and children deprived of even basic education.



Manju Didi addressing team Boston

She spoke of the early struggles, the resilience of rural communities, and how Ekal schools slowly became beacons of hope. Her words revealed how Ekal's vision extends far beyond literacy, strengthening the nation through education, fostering self-sufficiency, and nurturing values rooted in Desh Bhakti (patriotism) and Sanskar Shiksha (value-based learning).

Manju Didi reminded us that a nation's progress is like building a home, it requires a strong foundation, protective walls, and a secure roof. Secure, self-reliant villages reduce urban migration, preserve dignity, and build lasting national strength. For a nation to feel secure, borders must be protected, but she stressed that a soldier without desh bhakti cannot truly serve. Patriotism must be instilled early,





From Adelaide to Rural Bharat AVANTIKA'S PROMISE OF GIVING

My name is Avantika Swaminathan. I am in Year 4 at St. Joseph's Payneham in Adelaide, South Australia.

One evening, while my Nani and Mom were on a virtual meeting with a field Karyakarta named Sri Deep Kumar uncle, I saw something on the screen that stayed with me. Children were sitting on a mud floor, holding books and reciting a poem. They were part of an Ekal Vidyalaya in rural India. What struck me most was that they didn't have chairs or desks — not even shoes.

I felt unhappy. Why should children learn in such conditions?



I turned to my Nani and asked, "What can I do for them?"

She gently said, "If you save just one dollar a day, by the end of the year you'll have 365 dollars — enough to help buy books and other learning materials for those children. Your mom will send it to India."

That idea made me very happy. Later, when I visited India, my Nani gifted me a beautiful box. Now, every evening, after I recite the Gayatri Mantra, I place one dollar in that box. It's my small way of sharing love and hope. I told my Nani, "One day, I want to visit my village friends in India — and when I grow big, I want to do a lot more for them."

alongside meeting basic needs like food and shelter. And it all begins with awareness of one's resources, one's potential, and one's place in the larger story of the nation.

Ekal's multifaceted approach addresses these needs holistically, teaching organic farming, offering skill training for livelihoods, introducing computer literacy to bridge the rural-urban gap, and fostering cultural pride. As Manju Didi put it, if one cannot feel pride in their mother, they will never feel compelled to protect her.

Her message was simple yet profound: lasting change starts at the roots. Like a tree that bears fruit only when its roots are nurtured, a country

thrives when all its people feel secure, empowered, and self-sufficient.

My own visits to Ekal schools in the past have shown me their unique ability to make learning joyful, drawing in children with excitement rather than obligation. Over four decades, Ekal has mastered the art of entering a village in a way that inspires the entire community to embrace education.

I left that evening inspired, grateful for the opportunity to hear her stories firsthand, and reminded of the quiet power of service rooted in love with the nation and its people.

Heartfelt congratulations to Smt Arushee Divyakriti and Smt Manisha Kumar on becoming the new

co-presidents of the Ekal Boston chapter. With their passion and energy, I am confident the movement here will reach new heights. Our thanks to Sri Ram Nehra, pioneer in bringing Ekal's mission to the Boston area nearly 25 years ago; NE Regional President Smt Parveen Minocha; Executive Director Smt Manisha Jain; and board member Smt Meena Subramanyam for their unwavering support in making the evening truly meaningful. Smt. Jaya Srivastava warmly invited her long-time friends, Smt. Mamta and Sri Anand Bhadoria, to attend the meeting. Inspired by the discussions, they enthusiastically joined the Ekal Boston team immediately thereafter. ■

Manorama Choudhury
Ekal, USA





JOURNEY OF SOCIAL SERVICE

Sri Atul Shah's social life began with sports—he was a university table tennis champion, which eventually connected him with the Rotary family. As President of the Rotaract Club for two consecutive years, he inspired youth to embrace community service.

SPIRITUAL BOND WITH EKAL ABHIYAN

In 2005, he became associated with Ekal Abhiyan, becoming a regular member by 2008. In 2011, he assumed the responsibility of Khandwa Anchal Abhiyan President, where he not only

Sri Atul Shah

A Life Dedicated to Service

Born on the sacred soil of Khandwa on October 7, 1968, to Smt. Indiraben Shah, Shri Atul Shah is a shining example of how service, organization, and social responsibility can beautifully converge in a single life. Coming from a modest family, Sri Atul Shah imbibed values of self-reliance, hard work, and dedication to society from an early age.

Early Life and Education: He received his primary education at Makhanlal Chaturvedi Government School in Khandwa, later completing his secondary education with a focus on Mathematics and Science. Though he pursued BA and LLB, financial constraints forced him to discontinue in the final year. Life demanded maturity from him much earlier than most.

His father, Sri Ranchhoddas Shah, an influential farmer, instilled in him the

virtues of diligence and a deep love for rural India. In 1987, Atul Shah began his professional journey with a dairy business. Despite initial setbacks, he persevered, diversifying into plastic tanks, kitchenware, household items, and furniture. In 2003, he established the district's largest furniture showroom, followed by a German-technology-based modular furniture unit in 2022.

FAMILY SUPPORT

His wife, Smt. Beena Shah, originally from Kochi, Kerala, left her banking career post-marriage to prioritize family responsibilities and actively support business and social service. Their sons, Pratik (CA) and Kartik (Civil Engineer) are actively involved in the family business, alongside elder daughter-in-law Khushboo (MBA).

expanded the number of schools but also strengthened community engagement.

One defining moment during his tenure was tackling severe malnutrition in certain Ekal villages of Khandwa, which had claimed several young lives. Responding to a request from the district administration, Shri Shah organized a door-to-door survey with Ekal Acharyas and Sanch Pramukhs, identifying 189 malnourished children, ensuring their hospitalization, and taking full responsibility for their care. Every child returned home healthy a living testimony to Ekal's credibility. The Collector himself attended the Bal Gopal Samagam event to express gratitude.





BAL GOPAL SAMAGAM

A Landmark Event: Under Atul Shah's leadership, 100 children from remote villages were "adopted" for a day by prominent city families. The children experienced city life for the first time—wearing new clothes, visiting homes, and building emotional connections. The evening farewell was deeply moving, akin to a daughter's wedding send-off. Over 3,000 citizens, including the Collector, public representatives, and Ekal leadership, witnessed the event—a milestone showcasing Ekal's socio-cultural impact in Khandwa.

OTHER NOTABLE INITIATIVES

- Organized eye-care camps and cataract surgeries for over 620 patients in Ekal villages.
- Led Khandwa Sanch to receive Platinum++ honour for the highest fundraising nationwide, personally awarded by Ma Shyam Gupta.

- During COVID-19: arranged food, shelter, and vaccination for migrant workers.
- Through Seva Bharati, facilitated patient care in hospitals and family support.
- Introduced Mobile Health Units and vaccination models later adopted across Madhya Pradesh.

Leadership Roles: Beyond Ekal, Sri Shah has significantly contributed as a trustee of Seva Bharati and Divyang Ashram, and as an active member of the Rashtriya Swayam-sevak Sangh. From 2022-2025, he served as President of Ekal Abhiyan Prabhag P7 (MP & Rajasthan), and since May 2025, he is the National President of Ekal Gram Sangathan. Under his leadership, the four pillars - education, values, self-reliance, and holistic village development are advancing vigorously.

An Inspirational Personality: Sri Atul Shah's life proves that when service, organizational acumen, and

family values work in harmony, life becomes not only meaningful for oneself but also an inspiration for society. His disciplined, humble, and approachable nature sets him apart. Villagers welcome him like family during his visits, creating bonds that go beyond formality.

His greatest strength lies in empowering every member of the organization. He firmly believes: "If every Acharya, Sanch Pramukh, and committee member fulfills their responsibility with devotion, every Indian village can become self-reliant, cultured, and strong through Ekal."

For Sri Atul Shah, Ekal is not just about education, but also about nurturing values and awakening consciousness. In his own words: ***"Education alone is not enough. Education with values and emotional awakening is essential. Ekal is not just a school; it is a pathway to India's ultimate glory."*** ■

Editorial Section





Rana Punja Bhil Father of Guerrilla Warfare

Introduction: History is often written by those in power, which is why the chronicles of India's freedom struggle predominantly highlight battles against British rule. Yet, the story of India's resistance did not begin in 1857—it echoes through centuries of defiance against invading forces long before colonialism. Among the earliest warriors of this eternal fight was Rana Punja Bhil, a tribal hero whose courage, leadership, and ingenuity shaped the course of resistance against tyranny. His legacy is not just about defending land; it is about preserving identity, honour, and freedom.

Rana Punja was born on October 5 in Merpur village of present-day Rajasthan. His father was the local chief, and after his death, Punja assumed leadership at the tender age of 14. Known for his bravery, leadership, and combat skills, Punja soon gained widespread fame. Under his stewardship, Merpur flourished, and he was later crowned the ruler of Bhomat, extending his influence across the Aravalli hills.



This period was marked by severe oppression by imperial powers. Punja Bhil rose as a protector of his land, defending his people against tyranny. His defining moment came during the Mughal onslaught on Mewar. In 1576, after Akbar captured Chittorgarh, Maharana Pratap stood isolated. Even close allies and his own brother, Shakti Singh, deserted him. Most regional rulers accepted Mughal supremacy except one: Rana Punja Bhil.

When Maharana Pratap sought support, Punja pledged unconditional loyalty. "We will never surrender our forests, our land, or our freedom. Our arrows may not be golden, but our resolve is stronger than steel," he declared. His 400 Bhil warriors, experts in ambush tactics, joined Maharana Pratap's 3,400 troops against the Mughal army led by Raja Man Singh.

On June 18, 1576, the legendary Battle of Haldighati was fought not for territory, but for honour and independence. Punja Bhil's forces

played a pivotal role, employing guerrilla tactics in the rugged Aravallis. Their relentless attacks inflicted severe damage on the Mughal army, forcing them into disarray. This earned Rana Punja the title of "Father of Guerrilla Warfare" in Indian history.

Despite multiple attempts by the Mughals to win him over with offers of land and wealth, Punja remained steadfast. He never sought rewards or positions of power. As he famously said, "We owe our lives to this soil; protecting it is our only dharma." His valour was later honoured by Maharana Pratap, who embraced him as a brother.

Today, Rana Punja Bhil stands as an enduring symbol of tribal pride and Indian self-respect. His name resonates in the folk songs and tales of Rajasthan, Gujarat, and Madhya Pradesh. The Rajasthan government has built a memorial in Gogunda to honour him. Though mainstream history often overlooks his contributions, his legacy reminds us that when voices rise from the forests, empires tremble.

Message: In an age where the meaning of freedom is often confined to political independence, Rana Punja Bhil's life urges us to rethink what true liberty means: preserving our culture, safeguarding our environment, and standing firm against any force that threatens our collective identity. His story is a clarion call for unity, courage, and integrity in defending the values that define us as a nation. Today, honouring his memory is not just about remembering a warrior; it is about living his spirit of resistance and responsibility in every sphere of life. ■

Source

Wikipedia and Internet



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