

गाँव  
कनेक्शन  
PRESENTS

# Teacher CONNECTION

CELEBRATING TEACHERS EVERY DAY



## The Calling

*Meet the teachers who had a calling and chose the path less travelled to reimagine education in rural India*



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AUGUST 2023



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## GAON CONNECTION

**FOUNDED IN 2012 TO STRENGTHEN  
THE VOICE OF RURAL INDIA**

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## FROM THE MANAGING EDITOR

**THEY ARE DIFFERENT**; a class apart. Instead of following the crowd, these educators chose a path riddled with difficulties, and struggled against all odds to succeed.

These are the changemakers, the rural teachers whose success we may see, but whose calloused feet and hands we rarely notice.

A young scientist with a promising career in Canada left it all behind and returned home to his village in Uttar Pradesh, to set up a school. Dr SB Misra, a geologist, did this 51 years ago when he set up Bhartiya Gramin Vidyalaya at Kunaura village, which imparts education and livelihood skills to rural children.

Then there are those teachers who simply packed their bags and left for remote villages in the country to educate children who live in difficult terrain and are mostly first generation learners.

That is what Bengaluru-based Sarah Shah did when she set up the Turtuk Valley School in Turtuk village of Leh in Ladakh.

Somewhat similar is the journey of 27-year-old Rana Jyoti, who left her job in Mumbai and moved to Yourbaltak village in Kargil where she now teaches at Government Model Middle School.

These teachers made a conscious choice to leave comfortable lifestyles and take the road less travelled.

They are working with minimal resources and extraordinary commitment to touch the lives of children who would otherwise be deprived of an education and a chance to dream big in life.

As part of *Gaon Connection's* Teacher Connection project, we are connecting with educators whose life stories, hitherto undocumented, can inspire generations to come.

These teachers neither seek fame nor credit for the work they are doing. Every time their students do well in life, they look at their worn feet, smile and remind themselves that the journey they took was worth it.

This issue of our *Teacher Connection* magazine is dedicated to the teachers who dreamt the impossible and made education a reality for hundreds of thousand students in far flung villages of the country.

**Nidhi Jamwal**

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 @JamwalNidhi



# A Class Apart

Meet the teachers who had a calling and chose the path less travelled. They reimagined education, especially for those children who live far away from the glitter of big cities.

## GAON CONNECTION

**D**R SHIV BALAK Misra, a noted geologist and scientist, is 83 years old. But he still remembers those dark mornings before sunrise when he walked to school that was 12 kilometres away.

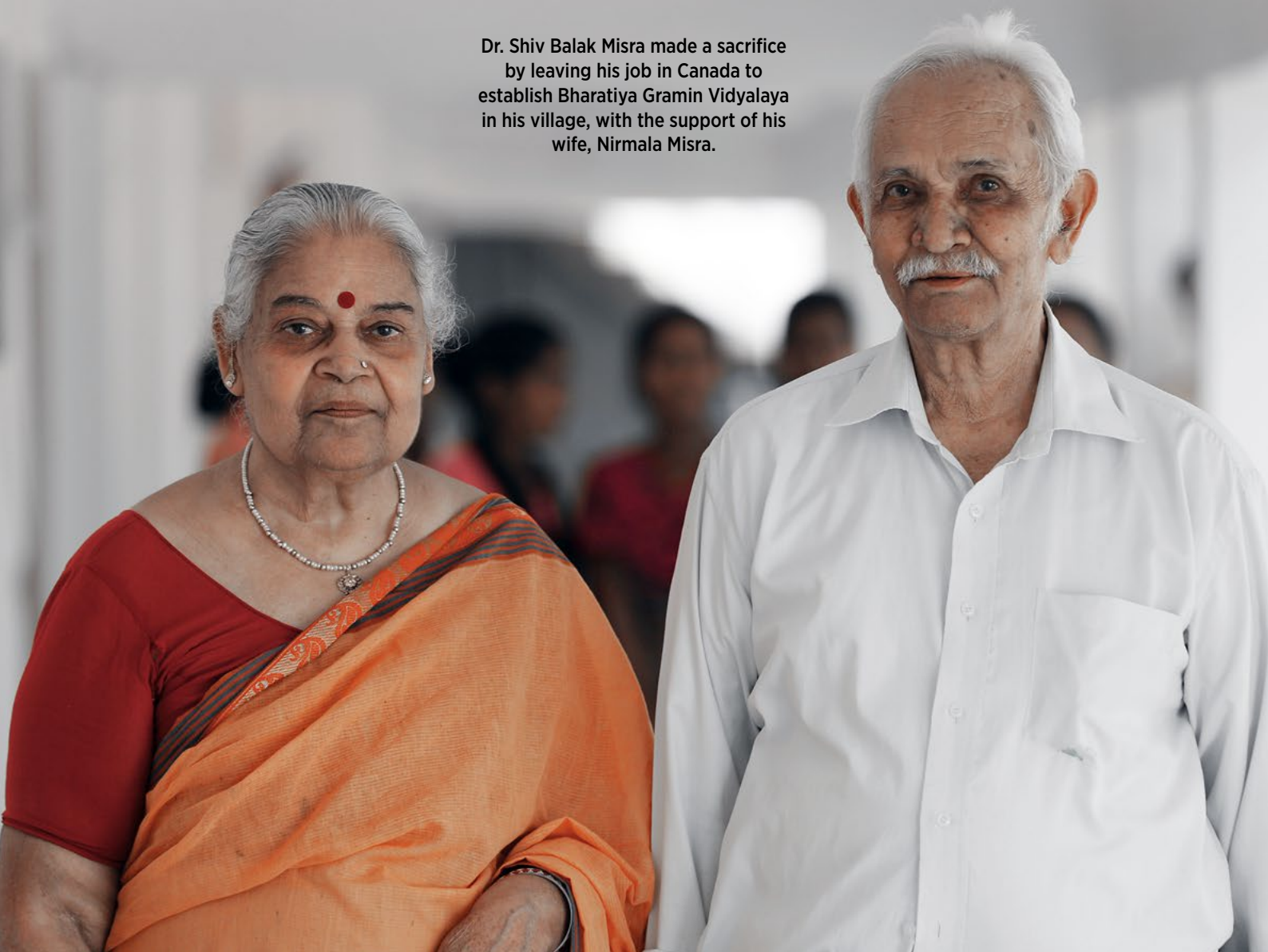
His village in Uttar Pradesh had no school. And he had no watch. But he could tell time by looking at where the moon was in the sky. He left home at 4 am and reached his school

at 7 am when classes began.

Dr Misra grew up to become a well-known geologist (who discovered a fossil, *Fractofusus misrai*) in Canada. But, memories of his own childhood education refused to leave him. He gave up his job abroad and came back to his village in Uttar Pradesh and set up Bharatiya Gramin Vidyalaya, at Kunaurya village, along with his wife Nirmala Misra.

» CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

Dr. Shiv Balak Misra made a sacrifice by leaving his job in Canada to establish Bharatiya Gramin Vidyalaya in his village, with the support of his wife, Nirmala Misra.





Sarah Shah started her Turtuk Valley School in 2020 with 25 students and now has 140 students up to 7th standard.

Making rural children self-reliant is the dream the Misras have. To that purpose they provide quality education in the school that is 51 years old, and now has a skill centre that imparts training to the students through various courses, to prepare them for the job market.

Perhaps, Dr Misra understood more than anyone else that only education could improve the lives of rural Indians.

In a country where there are 1.5 million primary and secondary schools, it is unfortunate that one hears so little of the voices of the 9.7 million teachers like Dr Misra, who are the backbone of these educational institutions.

According to UNESCO's report titled *No Teacher, No Class: State of the Education Report for India 2021*, 84% of these schools are in rural areas.

Who are these teachers, the faces behind the statistics? That was the reason why *Gaon Connection* launched Teacher Connection project, to find out who these marvellous humans were, what drove them to do the fabulous things they did and how they overcame insurmountable odds.

ACCORDING TO UNESCO'S REPORT TITLED *NO TEACHER, NO CLASS: STATE OF THE EDUCATION REPORT FOR INDIA 2021*, 84 PER CENT OF THESE SCHOOLS ARE IN RURAL AREAS

These educators have gone back to the drawing board and reimagined teaching and education. And, neither poverty, nor geography has held them back as they have found ways to make the teaching and learning experience in classrooms better and better.

If it was memories of his childhood that led Dr Misra to set up a school in his village, it was a chance conversation with a cab driver while on holiday that led Sarah Shah to set up the Turtuk Valley School in Ladakh.

The conversation led to the 25-year-old returning home to Bengaluru to pack her bags and set off for Nubra in Leh district to Turtuk, more

than 3,000 kilometres away from home. She set up the school in 2020, but before that ensured she volunteered at other government schools in Turtuk, Zaskar, Kargil in Ladakh, and also in the Kashmir valley. Sarah would teach in one school for a few months then move to another school.

Her school started with 25 students and now Turtuk Valley School has 140 students up to 7th standard. There, along with the unstinting support of the local communities and 12 other teachers, she put her roots down.

For Sarah, her mission is to give the best possible education to the children of this remote region and ensure they are kept abreast about the career options they have once they grow up and making sure they know there is a whole wide world out there where they could make their dreams come true.

"We will want them to take an aptitude test in the near future to help them gauge their own strengths and challenges and then choose a career path. To me, that is the most effective way of motivating them," Sarah told *Gaon Connection*.

►► CONTINUED ON PAGE 6



## LEAD STORY



Sandhya Gupta and Sarit Sharma founded Aavishkaar in Palampur, Himachal Pradesh after returning from the US in 2012.

The mountains of Ladakh called out to Rana Jyoti too. The 27-year-old from Mumbai teaches English and Hindi to children at the Government Model Middle School in Yourbaltak, near Kargil in the Union Territory of Ladakh. She thinks nothing of travelling 18 kilometres to the village school from Kargil where she lives.

A PR person by profession, Rana Jyoti has found her calling in Ladakh. She packed a small bag with three kurtas, one trouser, and a shirt, and left for Kargil from Mumbai.

"I am still a PR professional, and I continue to work remotely. But teaching the children in Kargil is the most satisfying thing I have done," she told *Gaon Connection*.

Rana Jyoti brings all her experience of her PR world into her teaching and introduces her students to the importance of time management, problem solving, and teamwork. For her students, learning happens while they watch movies, read poetry, wield paint brushes and take part in quizzes.

"I want to awaken and nurture the curiosity all kids have. I want them to shed any inhibitions they have," she said. In the process, she said, she had learnt a lot about herself and the world around her.

Sometimes, the teachers themselves need help to upgrade themselves and learn things to improve their own classroom experiences. And Aavishkaar, a non-profit organi-

sation in Kandbari village Palampur, Himachal Pradesh, does just that.

This institution has an interesting story behind it. Sandhya Gupta and Sarit Sharma founded it once they returned from the United States of America in 2012. The husband and wife, both PhDs, returned from the US to Palampur to settle down.

They decided to send their daughter to a local government school and also taught there from time to time. They became deeply involved in re-

and pedagogies to teach science and mathematics through in-campus training programmes, and virtual sessions. Thousands of teachers, especially from rural areas, have benefitted through the courses.

Aavishkaar also offers fellowship programmes for young teachers who want to bring a change in the way government schools work.

In Himachal Pradesh alone more than 8,000 government school teachers have been trained by Aavishkaar in association with Wipro Foundation in the last three to four years.

Young women from states such as Tamil Nadu, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand come to Aavishkaar to sign up for these skill development programmes.

One of them, Jeeva who came to Aavishkaar for training from Madurai in Tamil Nadu, now dreams of setting up a Mathematical Activity Centre in her hometown.

Similarly, Nidhi Kumari, a 20-year old from Patna in Bihar, also shed her fear of mathematics at Aavishkaar, and now teaches the subject at a primary government school at Kandbari village in Palampur. This is one of several that Aavishkaar has adopted, and it is here that the Fellows of Aavishkaar hone their teaching skills.

Dr SB Misra, Sarah Shah, Rana Jyoti, Sandhya Gupta and Sarit Sharma are living examples of teachers who have taken the road less travelled and have worked wonders. ■



Mumbai's 27-year-old Rana Jyoti teaches English and Hindi at the Government Model Middle School in Yourbaltak, near Kargil.

vamping the education system, and finally set up Aavishkaar in 2014.

Sandhya and Sarit believe that an educator's main work is to facilitate the students' journey of understanding. Their vision is to transform into curious, creative and critical thinking citizens through mathematics and science education.

Aavishkaar is showing the way forward in training teachers to get their students to fall in love with science and mathematics. Aavishkaar uses innovative teaching methods

# From Mumbai to a village in Kargil to find a purpose in life — Teaching

LARAIB FATIMA WARSI

**WHEN RANA** Jyoti's young students share their dreams of becoming doctors, nurses, and pilots, it reaffirms her decision to move to Yourbaltak, a village about 18 kilometres away from Kargil in the Union Territory of Ladakh.

Jyoti is a 27-year-old woman who teaches English and Hindi to students from classes LKG to eight at Government Model Middle School in Yourbaltak, which is located in an inhospitable terrain.

But Jyoti is not a teacher by profession. She is a PR (public relations) professional who belongs to Bhagalpur in Bihar, and used to work in Mumbai, Maharashtra. It is her passion and her desire to change the lives of children in remote parts of the country that brought her to Kargil, over 2,300 kilometres away, in May this year.

"While working in Mumbai, I happened to hear about Yourbaltak village in Kargil and how children there struggled to access education and many of them did not attend any



Jyoti teaches English and Hindi to students from classes LKG to 8 at Government Model Middle School in Yourbaltak. RANA JYOTI

school. I decided to visit the village and see it for myself," Jyoti told *Gaon Connection*.

"Initially my mother did not agree for me to go to Kargil and teach children there. But eventually I packed my small bag and left for Kargil from Mumbai. And since then I have been at Yourbaltak," she added.

Apart from teaching students

English and Hindi, Jyoti also teaches students important topics like personality development and soft skills such as time management, problem solving, and teamwork. She also conducts classes on awareness about mental health, and art painting drives.

## Nurturing leadership skills in students

PRATYAKSH SRIVASTAVA  
GORAKHPUR, UP

**THE ONLY** sound in the classroom is that of rustling as the students turn the pages of their workbooks. Heads bent, fingers busy writing, the 55 children in Roshan Jahan's class are busy.

Every now and then the class leader Simran, a nine-year-old student, surveys the classroom and if she finds anyone struggling with the classwork, she goes over to help with the exercises in the workbook.

Roshan Jahan says the workbooks are a godsend. "They are provided by the education department and in a multi-grade, multi-level classroom



PRATYAKSH SRIVASTAVA

**Multi-grade, multi-level classroom management is very useful.**

like ours, they keep the children gainfully occupied if we are called out of class for some administrative work," Jahan told *Gaon Connection*.

Jahan has been teaching at the

government primary school in Tigra Dwitya village of Gorakhpur district in Uttar Pradesh since 2008.

The primary school has just two teachers, Roshan Jahan and Ruchi Upadhyay, and two functional classrooms to manage 111 children from classes one to five. While Jahan teaches *bhasha* (language), Upadhyay teaches mathematics to the students from classes one to five.

"Multi-grade, multi-level classroom management is not easy, but very useful in the context of rural schools," said Roshan Jahan, the headmistress of the school.



# A headmaster's crusade against child labour in tribal Jharkhand

MANOJ CHOUDHARY  
EAST SINGHBHUM, JHARKHAND

**ARBIND KUMAR** Tiwary is the headmaster in-charge of Utkramit Madhya Vidyalaya, a government school in the Santhal-dominated Tangrain village in East Singhbhum district, Jharkhand. On some days, if he finds absentees, the 51-year-old teacher heads to their home to find out why they are not at school, and takes them back with him.

Many of the students of the school belong to tribal communities and some of them are from a particularly vulnerable tribal group (PVTG), and are first generation learners who live in the Sabar Basti of the village.

Before 2022, no Sabar tribe child from the basti had ever been to school, even though the school was walking distance from where they lived. "Due to my sustained efforts, six Sabar children took admission in class three in 2022, and they are now promoted to class four," the headmaster told *Gaon Connection*, proudly.



Arbind Kumar Tiwary with Sabar tribe children who now come to Utkramit Madhya Vidyalaya to study. MANOJ CHOUDHARY

He is especially happy because many of the children of the Sabar tribe were working as child labourers.

"My two sons, Deshuba Sabar and Doctor Sabar study in class four of the school. Two years ago, Deshuba worked in a nearby village," said Soma Sabar, the father of the kids. Soma Sabar said that he was paid Rs 4,000 annually to let his son work there.

When Arbind Tiwary came to know of it, he rescued the child and

put him and his brother in school. "Because of poverty and illiteracy, Sabar do not send their children to school and let them go and work as *dangar* (child labour) in order to augment the family income," Soma Sabar added.

But after his sons started school, other Sabar families have followed suit and are sending their children to school too.

## A planned move to bring out the best in the classroom

PRATYAKSH SRIVASTAVA  
GORAKHPUR, UP

**ASSHE** shepherds her eight and nine year old students out of the classroom at the end of the school day, Mamata Pandey knows that her duties as a teacher are far from over, and she will be working late into the night.

"I enjoy the peace and quiet of the night and I am most creative then," smiled Pandey. That is when she pores over her lesson plans, and



Mamata Pandey uses real-life examples to get the students to understand some of the fundamental concepts in mathematics. PRATYAKSH SRIVASTAVA

depending on the concepts to be taught the following day, she plans activities for her students.

The 260-page lesson plan book is

her friend, guide and saviour since 2019, said the 46-year old assistant teacher at the Primary School Kanya. She joked that she never strayed far from the book provided by the state government that has visual references and recommendations as to how to conduct a class.

"The lesson plan focuses on specific learning outcomes and explains how certain concepts can be taught in class in a way the students can understand them," Pandey told *Gaon Connection*.

The plan explains in detail what is to be done for every competency to be taught. It also describes the TLM (teaching learning material) to be used, what examples to be referred to from the book, and workbook exercises to build competency.



**ARE YOU AN EDUCATOR, A TEACHER, OR A MENTOR WHO IS A CONSERVATIONIST AT HEART? DO YOU WISH TO MAKE YOUR CLASSROOM A 'GREEN' CLASSROOM, AND TURN YOUR STUDENTS INTO MINI-CONSERVATIONISTS? HERE ARE SOME ONLINE RESOURCES THAT CAN HELP YOU TEACH CONSERVATION IN THE CLASSROOM.**

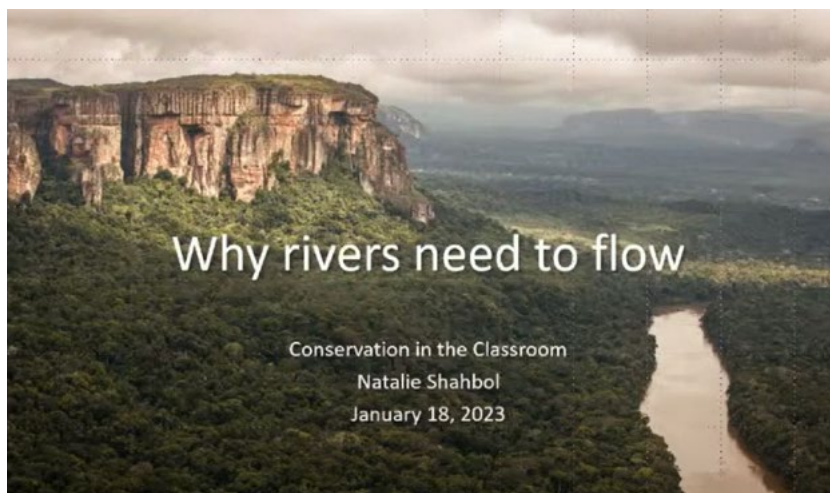
# CONSERVATION IN CLASSROOMS

**THE BEST** way to teach children about conservation and protecting the environment is to lead them by example. There are many ways to make your classroom 'green' by taking small steps, such as not wasting paper and reusing paper for art and craft works. The waste materials that are generated in the classroom can be reused to make projects. Thus, minimum waste reaches the dustbin.

Often, schools take children for

picnics or outdoor activities. You can organise a 'collect-the-litter' walk for your students where you and your students walk around the school campus and collect waste that is thrown carelessly and deposit it all in a dustbin. Such an activity can also be organised to clean beaches or public parks/playgrounds.

Following are some more online resources you may wish useful to reach conservation in the classroom.



## WILD CLASSROOM

**THE WORLD** Wildlife Fund has a wild classroom to offer that connects educators and parents with the tools they need to help kids explore the world around them. It aims to inspire the next generation to build a future where people and nature thrive!

You can choose from a variety

of toolkits featuring information guides and activities about some of WWF's priority species and conservation goals. These subject-integrated lessons are perfect for school, home, or any learning environment and will leave kids with an understanding of how their actions help shape the future of nature. There are toolkits that can help your students turn into Waste Warriors!



## CONSERVATION POEMS AND STORYTELLING

**CURRENT CONSERVATION** for kids is an annual supplement of Current Conservation magazine carrying stories in ecology, conservation, climate change, and the natural world, for children and young adults aged between 6 to 14 years old.

CC Kids! brings stories crucial to our times in engaging, intelligent, and imaginative forms.

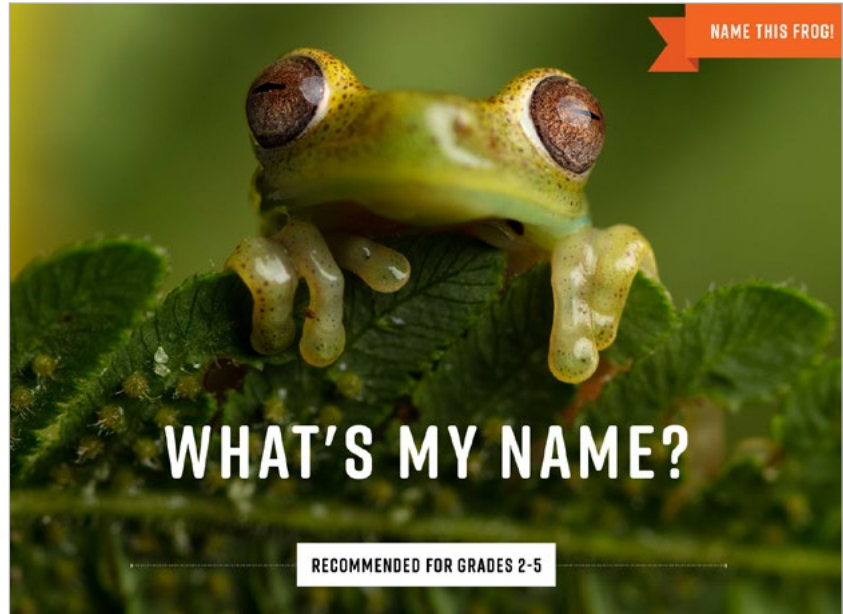
Apart from poems and storytelling on issues of conservation, it also has Fun Facts for kids. And there are some quizzes too to excite the young minds! For instance, do you know what shape is the flamingo nest? Think, think...



## GREEN SCHOOLS PROGRAMME

**THE CENTRE** for Science and Environment (CSE) is a public interest research and advocacy organisation based in New Delhi, which researches into, lobbies for and communicates the urgency of development that is both sustainable and equitable. CSE has a unique initiative — Green Schools Programme (GSP) — which conducts Environmental Summer Camps, skill building E-camps, and also has a GSP Community portal (an online community platform for young environmentalists).

It also conducts an audit of the schools and gives awards and certificates to 'green' schools. In its latest GSP Audit 2022-23, over 700 schools from across India participated in it.



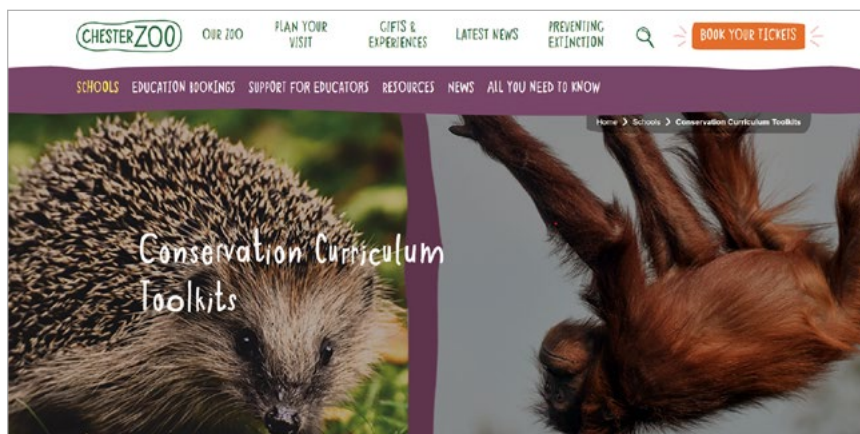
## LESSON PLANS FOR CLIMATE CHANGE

**RESERVA IS** a non-profit with a mission to empower young people to make a measurable difference for threatened species and habitats through conservation, education, and storytelling. It provides free resources for teachers seeking solutions-based lesson plans for climate change and biodiversity education.

Reserva's Habitat & Biodiversity Conservation unit is a free re-

source for teachers seeking solutions-based lesson plans for climate change and biodiversity education. This unit is designed for grades 2–4, and is divided into five lessons with multiple worksheets, resources, and activities: Lesson 1: What is Biodiversity? Lesson 2: Where do you find Biodiversity? Lesson 3: Threats to Biodiversity; Lesson 4: Solutions; Lesson 5: My First Action.

## CONSERVATION TOOLKITS



**CHESTER ZOO** has put together Conservation Curriculum Toolkits to help teachers from anywhere across the world to put conservation at the heart of pupils' learning. Explore lesson plans, assembly planners, topic webs, progression overviews, knowledge organisers, resources and more to get your whole school started on their own conservation curriculum journey.

Its comprehensive toolkits promise to take your students on a journey through conservation. It has crafted lesson plans, progression overviews, and resources for the same. Chester Zoo premises that its online resources can inspire and ignite a passion in young learners; helping them to build a connection with the planet and the wildlife on it.



# GURUKULAM — A SCHOOL WITHOUT A TIMETABLE

AMBIKA TRIPATHI

**WHAT STARTED** off as an open-air classroom under a tree for five students in Kanpur, is now a school that has 150 students. Gurukulam, which has classes one to 10, was founded by 24-year-old Uddeshya Sachan in 2019, and he wanted to make the school learning interesting and interactive for its students.

"I started off with a marker and a whiteboard under a tree with five students but soon my teaching got popular and today I have a building for my school," Sachan told *Gaon Connection*.

"When I was a child studying at school, my mother was sick and my father, who was a tailor, couldn't afford to pay my fees and I was expelled



Gurukulam, which has classes one to 10, was founded by 24-year-old Uddeshya Sachan in 2019.

from school. I could never forget that," Sachan, who graduated in Philosophy from University of Lucknow, added.

Apart from Sachan, there are three more teachers at Gurukulam. The students come from economically challenged homes and they are not charged a fee. The funding of the school is raised from charitable donations.

"I believe that no child in this world can study a subject in the fixed hours in a schedule. A child's mind is very effervescent and it is constantly intrigued by multiple concepts and observations. Such a mind will function at its best when it has the choice to do what it wants to do at a given time," Sachan explained the philosophy of Gurukulam.

## Shiksha Rickshaw Abhiyan Is Spreading Smiles And Education



The Shiksha Rickshaw Abhiyan is the brainchild of Rahul Pandey and Vikash Jha who may not be qualified teachers but are determined to teach and transform the lives of children of construction labourers.

The Shiksha Rickshaw Abhiyan is the brainchild of Rahul Pandey and Vikash Jha who may not be qualified teachers but are determined to teach and transform the lives of children of construction labourers. The Shiksha Rickshaw is an initiative of their non-profit, Bhavishya, that they set up in 2013.

Jha, a software engineer, is from Madhubani, Bihar and works in a private company in Noida. Rahul Pandey is from Uttarakhand. He is a mechanical engineer and is currently working as a government official in the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports in Moradabad, Uttar Pradesh.

Bhavishya, a lifeline for over two thousand children, now has five teaching centres in various sectors in Noida, West Bengal, and Bihar after 10 years. The non-profit began with distributing books and stationery to the children, in the hope they would get motivated to study.

LARAIB FATIMA WARSI

**AT 10 AM** every morning, there is a buzz in several sectors of NOIDA in Uttar Pradesh. Groups of children gather at various points and an autorickshaw trundles by and picks them up.

Along with them are volunteers

and teachers who move around between 10 am and 12 noon, then find an open space somewhere, in a park or under a tree, where they set up a temporary classroom for the 46 or so children in the age group six-12 years.

This is the Shiksha Rickshaw Abhiyan on the move.

## This village school has a Home Minister and an Education Minister

### GAON CONNECTION

**DURING THE** summer vacations Abhishek Shukla came up with the idea of the Baal-Sansad. Educating his students on the importance of voting as it is their democratic right, is something close to his heart.

"Voting is everyone's right and we must be aware of how it is done. That is why I came up with this idea to inform my students," said Shukla who teaches at the Sahjapur Primary School in Sitapur district, Uttar Pradesh.

As a consequence, his students have created an executive that consists of the President, the Vice-President and the council of Ministers with the Prime Minister as the head to aid and advise the President.

There are two teachers and one Shiksha Mitra in his school who conduct the elections for Baal Sansad and teach students about their voting rights. "I tell them about the democratic way of choosing



Abhishek Shukla educates his students about the significance of voting, emphasizing it as their democratic right. ABHISHEK SHUKLA

your representative, vote counting and how important these factors are for a democracy like ours," Shukla said.

The teachers assign roles to students who stand in the elections for the various designations, and then with the help of the teachers a 'Baal-Sansad' is organised on a particular date. Students take part in the process of voting and cast their vote.

cess of voting and cast their vote.

"A Home Minister and an Education Minister are also elected on the basis of the elections that take place in the school," Shukla said "We try to inculcate a sense of responsibility in the students and introduce to them to the voting system," he added

## A book bank that enriches students



It is not uncommon for many students to miss competitive exams due to a lack of funds for buying books.

### AMBIKA TRIPATHI

**MALKEET SINGH** was always on the look out for books in Braille. The class eleven student was blind in both eyes, but was good in studies. But for him to buy books in Braille was an expensive proposition.

Then help came from an unexpected quarter—a Book Bank. Malkeet got the books he needed from the book bank, studied hard and today, the 22-year-old holds a government job.

It is not uncommon that many students like Malkeet, for want of funds to buy books, do not appear for competitive exams. And, it was this fact that inspired Sarabjit Singh to start a book bank at Muktar Sahib in Punjab.

"I lost my eyesight when I was 12 years old. I met Sarabjit Sir who helped me a lot. I did well in my board exams and did my Bachelors too. In 2021, I got a government job. It has been two years and now I am

preparing to do my Masters," Malkeet told *Gaon Connection*.

Sarabjit recalled how every year once he was done with that year's books, he would dispose of them as trash. But soon, he realised those very same books could be of great value to others. "So, along with a few like minded friends, I began the book bank in 2019," he said.

They decided to find a shop in the centre of town where the books could be kept and be easily accessed by whoever needed them. Sarabjit runs a bakery too which gives him some ready money to keep the book bank running smoothly.

"While I am at the bakery, Bakhtwar Singh, who has retired from the army, minds the book bank for me. We have about 2,000 books in the bank, and we spread the word about the book bank through Facebook on social media," he said.



## Poonam Tomar



**THE MOTIVATION** to do something for the country and bring change occurred to me because I come from a family which has contributed to the armed forces. Initially, I also wanted to join the army, but due to a serious injury, I could not qualify for the medical tests.

Thereafter, I luckily got a chance to become a teacher, so I didn't want

to let it go to waste and grabbed the opportunity to do something better in life.

I am a primary school teacher in Behta Chauhan, in Bareilly district of Uttar Pradesh. I have started a YouTube channel to teach the students, so that they study well and do not lag behind. Today, along with the students of our school, children from other schools also come to learn on our YouTube channel. In no time, many of our educational videos got millions of views.



## Shivendra Singh Baghel

**CARTOON CHARACTERS** speaking in the voice of their teacher is what is making learning Mathematics and Hindi a fun-filled activity for my students at Faizullapur Primary School in Faizullapur village, Har-doi District.

I use Artificial Intelligence (AI) to spice up my classes. Technology has always played an important role in education but the current use of it as Artificial Intelligence will be beneficial. I use videos made with AI as teaching aids.

I make two to three videos per day. I am currently working on the Hindi and Maths syllabus by including numbers, alphabets, names of fruits, colours and poems.



## Abhishek Shukla

**I AM** a teacher at Sahjapur Primary School in Uttar Pradesh's Sitapur. I have started a unique library in his school by bringing in volunteers who donate books. During this year's summer vacation, I conducted a summer camp for our students and I got an idea of start-

ing a library.

We initiated a book donation campaign for which I personally donated the books to inspire others in the village. And that's how it all began from there. Some of the school's former students also joined this campaign.

Our school's initiative has also received appreciation. All the books are curated according to the children's preferences. Since we have students up to Class 5, we have also included some comics to engage the children. Just as you donate food, clothing, blood, and other items, I urge you to consider donating books as well.



## Mamta Singh

**I AM** the principal of the Upper Primary School in Uttar Pradesh's Amethi. There are times when as a teacher, I come across many students who I think can do far better in life if their parents could afford better facilities for them.

However, it feels worse when I see a student not being able to continue studying at school due to financial constraints at home.

There was one such case when I couldn't help resist myself from trying my best to ensure that the child can continue studying. I was amazed to see the response I got when I told people about the child's problems at home. The number of people who came forward to help the student in affording the school fees and additional expenses was unbelievable.

No child deserves to be uprooted from the classroom because his or her parents cannot afford the fees. I appeal to you all to always help such children because they truly are the future of this country.

**NOTE: IF YOU HAVE AN INTERESTING STORY/ INCIDENT TO SHARE,  
WHATSAPP US AT 95656-11118**

