

Jnana Prabodhini

ज्ञान प्रबोधिनी

National Integration

Annual Report

October 2020 – January 2022

Seemavarti Rajye Sampark Gat

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Foreword

National integration is one of the 10 principal areas of work of Jnana Prabodhini. National integration is a blend of several feelings. Feeling of belongingness and affiliation to the nation and the society. The connection that goes beyond geographical boundaries. The feeling of oneness which comes from appreciating the diverse expressions of the spirit that we all share.

Volunteers and professionals from various fields contribute to different projects at Jnana Prabodhini as their conscious or subconscious urge of national integration. Their expressions differ with their interests and expertise. Their contribution and efforts are seen in the form of initiatives, collaborations and activities in various parts of the country.

The following report is an overview of initiatives and activities conducted at Jnana Prabodhini from October 2020 to January 2022.

This year has been a year of creating new bonds with the help of innovation and novel modes of communication. The pandemic brought with it certain challenges in travelling and face to face communication. Many activities suffered due to decrease in active man power in the months of lockdown. However, the challenges were soon transformed into opportunities and the physical distances suddenly vanished when we saw faces from the far away border states on our computer screens.

Increased efficiency of virtual meetings helped to overcome the obstacle of physical boundaries and reach to greater number of people, widening our work horizons.

The pandemic made us realize that nationhood is not a figment of imagination. Nationhood connects people, motivates and integrates cultures and societies no matter what. With this realization we worked with new excitement and enthusiasm.

We hope you will enjoy reading some glimpses of these exciting journeys (both virtual and actual) and our attempts of being integrated through various initiatives, activities and projects. Also, let us know where and how we can connect and collaborate better in future.

Have a good read!.

Connecting through Knowledge Exchange : Gyan Setu

Gyan Setu is a program conducted across various states of India. The program is based on the idea of “National Integration through Science Popularization”.

Number of volunteers from various fields visit in batches to conduct science-based workshops and camps for middle school students in remote and challenging areas of the country. Travelling constraints emerged from the pandemic in couple of years needed redesigning the program and ensured that interactions with the communities from these parts can still happen to achieve larger objective of national integration.

Following are some of the activities conducted in the last couple of years, adapting to the new virtual platforms to keep in touch and explore new possibilities of interactions.

1. Gyan Setu- KATTA (An online platform for interaction with volunteers.)

The objective of *Katta* is to reach maximum volunteers, introduce them to the Gyan Setu project through interactions with previously visited volunteers and introduce them to places we visit through informative sessions about states.

Know our country series that started in December 2020 was continued as a part of *Katta*, wherein sessions were organized every month to know about ground realities and future scope of work in the respective state from the experienced person who is associated with Gyan Setu as Localhost and has experience in the domain. Honorable guests from different states were invited from April to August respectively.

Month	State	Speaker
Dec-20	Manipur	IAS Hrushikesh Modak (Manipur Cadre)
		Veena Tai Bedekar
Jan-21	Jammu	IPS shridhar Patil
Mar-21	Assam	IAS Nisarg Hirve (Karimganj)
		B. Kamalakanta (VKSPV)
Mar-21	Jharkhand	Dr. Shubhra Dwedi (CEO SEEDS)
Apr-21	Meghalaya	Pravin Shewale (Vibhag Pracharak, Meghalaya)

May-21	Chhatisgarh	Swami Maheshwarananda
Jun-21	Arunachal Pradesh	Vijay Swami (Executive director RIWATCH)
Jul-21	Madhya Pradesh	Digvijay Singh Chouhan (Project Coordinator NIMAR)

These online sessions gave a brief orientation of states i.e. general information about the state, cultural introduction, tourism, and also allowed the participants to interact with persons who work there, learn from their journey, experiences while working.

Do watch this series on YouTube Channel -

#Interactive talk by Speakers -

https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLvwtwZwmZyLUiNQMNNoJyChk4LIDuhaS_r

#Know our Country -

<https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLvwtwZwmZyLUVs3kbXuMZhIuMxa0T7V6q>

2. Yuvonmesh

The magazine for Youth, dedicated to the leadership domain by the Leadership development center of Jnana Prabodhini. Yuvonmesh was printed on behalf of Gyan Setu in the month of August. The theme for the magazine was National Integration, where various articles and blogs were collected from volunteers who participated in Gyan Setu visits and local hosts for the same along with experts from the National integration domain. The articles were written in Marathi as well as English. These blogs talk about volunteers' visits to different states and different aspects of national integration. Many blogs and interviews are also accessible through QR codes that are printed in the magazine. A new section of fun quizzes related to Gyan Setu Katta: Know our Country Series is included in the magazine.

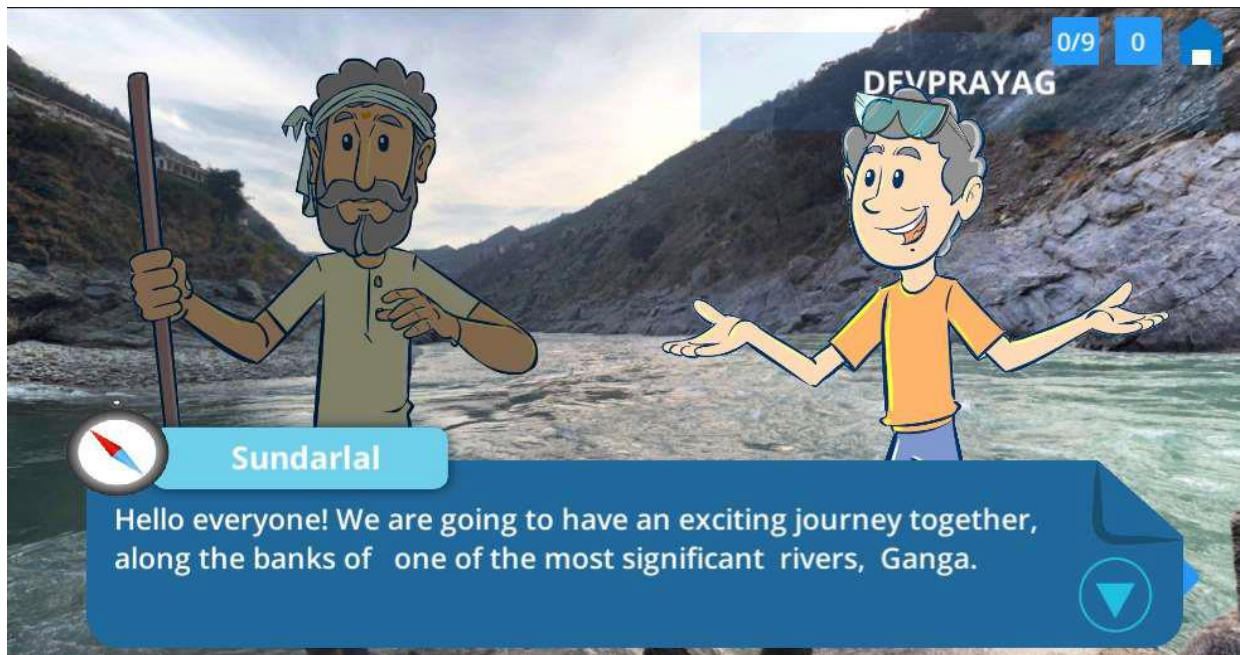
Link-

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1gII3w2BXCZpvzIXsRyG3h4uyjurWeKUi/view?usp=sharing>

Sharing Educational Resources

JP's Educational resource centre (ERC) works to enhance quality of teaching aids in school education system. Development of two interesting applications were initiated this year which will be available on android play store soon.

1. Development of Augmented reality app for Clouds.
2. Development of Visual novel: Rivers



Another interesting project was to create National Pledge i.e. “all Indians are my brothers and sisters ..” in Indian sign language. Across Maharashtra 85 students collaborated and created such videos.



New age teaching aids utilize digital media and networks making teaching-learning effective but using hands on material like cards, pebbles, balloons, trees can be equally effective teaching aid. Many workshops for teachers and master trainers were conducted enabling them to make and use such tools.

1. Jammu

- Four days online workshop was conducted for Teachers of various schools in Jammu from 15th - 18th Oct 2020 under *Atmanirbhar Bharat mission* of the Directorate of school education, Jammu (DSEJ). Topic of workshop was Mathematics and 125 Teachers from Doda, Kathua, Kistavad, Poonch, Rajuri, Ramban, Rasai, Samba, Udhampur districts attended the sessions.

On the opening day, Anuradha Gupta, Director DSEJ, Mr. Ajit Kanitkar, Secretary,

Directorate of School Education Jammu

Capacity building of Teachers for the new normal classroom

4 day Content creation workshop for Teachers teaching Mathematics from class 6 to 10.

IT Cell @ Directorate of School Education, Jammu in collaboration with Jnana Prabhodini (Maharashtra Based Organization) aims to make a marked change in Teacher's experience of teaching Mathematics.

Topics

- Video making (Script to production)
- Integration of technology in teaching
- Creating Geogbra Classroom
- PHET simulations and screen recording
- Animation Script to screen
- Creating Flash Animation

W-E-F 15TH OCTOBER 2020

IT CELL @ DSEJ

Jnana Prabodhini Samshodhan Sanstha (JPSS) and Liselle Dsouza, Maersk Global Services Ltd. (CSR Funding support Organization) honored the event. Sessions for “Integration of technology in Teaching” and “Creativity in Mathematics” were liked most. Around 45% participants gave 5 rating and 32% participants gave rating 4 to Experts conducting sessions on meeting the objectives. All felt that the workshop made a fruitful impact on them and created value addition. They would like to attend these sessions on subjects like trigonometry, video editing, animation & mathematics, technology, computer etc.

DSEJ has even showed their interest and willingness to conduct such training in Jammu and will provide

required support.

Training Inauguration video link -

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1_9aXngh3cXrFg1mmHdVUkjP0g7izo7G8/view?usp=sharing

- On 9th Nov, 2020, 1-day online workshop was conducted for 20 Mathematics Teachers of various schools in Jammu. The topics covered were Making quality educational videos, Studio setup, Editing on Mobile. Pallavi Paradkar and Mohindar Goswami conducted the session.

Feedback and Media Coverage –

<http://www.jammulinksnews.com/mb/newsdet.aspx?q=236295>

<https://boldnewsonline.com/dsejs-4-day-online-training-for-mathematics-teachers-concludes/>

<https://indiaeducationdiary.in/dsejs-4-day-online-training-for-mathematics-teachers-concludes/>

https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=716440569291578&id=243616743240632&sfnsn=wiwspwa

Some feedback from participants :

“These workshops should be conducted quarterly as a capacity building workshops at District as well as zonal level.”

“Actually, The training lasted for a shorter period, that's not enough. I suggest this type of training should have planned for longer period.”

“It was a very good training session indeed, a different kind of exposure is experienced.”

2. Poonch – Jammu and Kashmir

- Online Workshop for Video Creation and understanding Technology conducted for 75 teachers from Poonch district from 7-18th September 2021. These Teachers will work and master trainers for further training.

Session	Expert
Phet Simulation	Ravindra Godbole
GeoGebra	Siddarth Bhalerav
Content Licensing	Raghvendra Ponkshe
White board Animation	Pallavi Paradkar
Types of videos and Editing on mobile	Pallavi Paradkar, Aditya Ghorpade
Film making	Omkar Nilange
Augmented Reality and Virtual Reality	Yogesh Deshpande, Ravi Palekar
Cyber Security	Ashutosh Barmukh
Artificial Intelligence	Swati Bankar, Neha Abhyankar

- Online training on **Fundamental Literacy and numeracy, Creating Worksheets & Gamification** for 55 teachers trainer in Poonch conducted from 9-11 September. Dr. Swarnalata Bhishikar, teachers from Jnana Prabodhini's Solapur Center, Ragini Naik, Hema Honwad, Kiran Barve, Pallavi paradkar, Suvarna Karhadkar conducted these sessions.

3. Patna - Bihar

Bihar education department organized online training for creation of educational video for Diksha Platform. Total 55 teachers from Patna participated.

Session	Expert	Date
Workshop to create and edit videos.	Omkar Nilange	19 th Jan 2021
Elaboration of various categories of digital teaching Aids	Pallavi paradkar	19 th Jan 2021
Skills needed for video creation.	Dr. Nalini Gujrathi	4,5 Feb 2021
Science and Mathematics videos	Kiran Barve and Abhaya Tol	4,5 Feb 2021

4. Ladakh

National council of education and training, Delhi arranged 3 day training for Diksha Project For Ladakh education department (DSEL). Session was from 1-3 March 2021 and 26 teachers from DIET Leh and Kargil participated

Session	Expert
Story Boarding	Ravi Palekar
Digital Content creation	Girish Kemkar
Thinking skills planning for video preparation	Dr. Nalini Gujrathi

Chhattisgarh: Youth connecting youths

The program was initiated after a group of young volunteers visited Left Wing Extremism affected terrain of Chhattisgarh in June 2016. Since then, six visits to the same places have taken place, the latest being in December 2019. To motivate the young minds and develop their social awareness, education has to go beyond the rigid curriculum. For this, Jnana Prabodhini emphasizes on experiential learning.

Phase 1: Oct 2020 – Dec 2020 (Foundation)

- **Formation of the Core Group:** Mar 2020 – Dec 2020

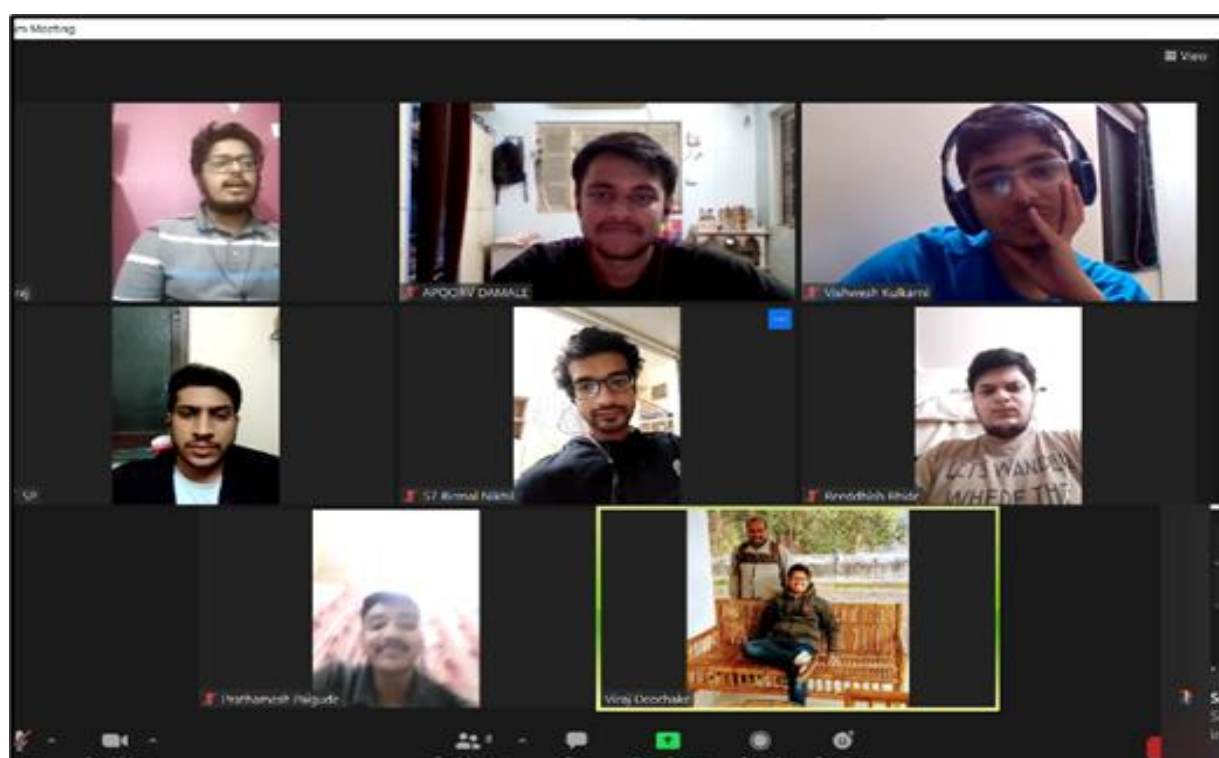
The pandemic affected and changed the things in the world which applied to this group also. But we were lucky enough to be aware of ourselves and utilise the pandemic and make the most of it by nurturing ourselves. In 2020, our core group sustained by exploring new topics, learning new things, and interacting, sharing the acquired knowledge with the core members through virtual platforms. We arranged expert talks on the topics like contextualization of Education, Urban Naxalism and discussed and compared it with the learnings from previous study tours. This group also watched documentaries available on YouTube and discussed it. Observations and the keynotes were documented which helped us to increase our understanding. This was a common process while learning various topics. We divided the tasks among the members and each one of them would first study, then share it among the group, other members would give their inputs in form of discussion, and this was documented for further purposes. To sum up, at the end of 2020, five of our members gave a formal presentation before various forums. Topics of presentation were “Naxalism in Forests”, “Urban Naxalism”, “UAPA and Elgar Parishad Case”, “Forest Act” and “Cultural Introduction regarding Bastar”.

Phase 2: Jan 2021 – Jan 2022 (Expansion)

- **Weekly Meetings of the Core Group:** Jan 2021 till present

We firmly believed that constructive work can be only built if the individuals in the core group meet at a regular frequency with a specific agenda. As said earlier, we utilised 2020 to build ourselves hence we were prepared enough to take on new challenges and these weekly meetings were one of them. Viraj, our senior who led the core group explained the importance and significance of these weekly meetings. Most of the members were afraid of the weekly frequency commitment. No one doubted the content or the work which was in front of the group. With the help of

a report of a case study – “JP Medical Trust” which happened in our organization, we came to a conclusion where we decided to meet weekly with an agenda. This was the nexus of all the events, experiments, study groups that took place in the year 2021. Weekly updates of the personal dialogue of a core group member with an extended group member were part of the agenda for a long time throughout the year. Besides, various areas of work were distributed among the core group members and those updates were taken timely. Even Physical study tours couldn't take place due to pandemics and still made sure that our friends in Bastar were connected with us. Those updates were also shared monthly. Any decisions regarding extended group meetings or collaborations with other such groups, working on the National Integration front were taken in these weekly meetings only. These meetings have been documented too.



- **Study module for the extended group: Jan 2021 – Feb 2021**

To get familiar with the purpose and the depth of these study tours, we developed a 35-hour module. The framework of the module comprised of the short purpose(s), corresponding content, tools, and time to achieve that purpose(s) was enlisted besides it. The multi-disciplinary approach while developing this module was very clear. i.e., Attitude building- knowing one's need, comfort, luxury; Developing a sense about the people of Bastar and their culture; Viewing Bastar from various aspects; Brief and cautious study of Communism and Naxalism-origin, spread, perishes in Bastar, Urban linkages etc.

Example:

Purpose: To understand the Bastar region beyond Naxalism.

Tool: To view Bastar region from Geographical, Political, Historical, Cultural aspects.

Medium: In a group of 3 members a task can be given to study and present particular aspects in detail.

Time required: 4 hours.

- **Building an extended group of individuals:** Feb 2021 till present

Occasional meetings were conducted with a frequency of 15 days. The agendas for these meetings were set through the module which was specifically developed for extended groups. Sometimes, it was organized through various tasks which were given to the individuals from the module itself where they had to work upon, think and discuss in the meeting. *Even at the start, when introducing everybody to Left Wing Extremism, the whole group watched a Bollywood movie – “Chakravyuh”.* Not only watched but a concrete discussion based on observations from the movie happened at the end. Experience sharing of the core group members who had conducted the study tours was performed in front of the extended group. *Articles like “The Tribal folk” by Jawaharlal Nehru which focused on perspectives through which tribal people are seen, the changes which are needed to be done in the future were highlighted.* Enlightening successful stories from the Naxal-affected region, *“The story of a small village: Mendha-Lekha” was brought to light through a small article written by a member of Jnana Prabodhini who was a part of this story.*



Various media or tools were used for the development of the extended group members. But this was just the one side of a coin. The other side focused on the personal dialogue of core members with the extended members. Weekly updates were shared in the core group meetings regarding the dialogue with each extended member. Academics, Interests, Aspirations, Opinions regarding various issues consisting of this module process...etc. These personal dialogues kept the process of extended group meetings running smoothly. *Apart from dialogue, informal get together of members for an event or just casual talks also happened during this period.*

- **Cultural Study Group:** April 2021 till present

A branch of an extended group. The ultimate goal of the Chhattisgarh Project is to experience and strengthen the process of National Integration. This can be achieved by connecting with the base layer of the Nation. i.e., the people. To understand the locals of Bastar, we felt the need to know about their culture and thus this group was formed. Through the discussions in this group, we identified a systematic approach by which the study of culture should be done i.e., under the broad headers of language, attire, faith, history, and culinary habits. Using these pointers, we studied the history of Bastar and the folk culture of Bastar like a method of prayer, dances and festivals and art. We presented our learnings in front of the extended group. After this activity, the structure of the Cultural Study Group became more concrete, and the actual goal of the group became clearer.

We think that our work is important for solving the grave issues faced by the people of Bastar about health, education, employment and Naxalism as it will provide a more concrete footing to understand the minds of the people of Bastar. We are primarily trying to understand the principles and practices prevalent in the tribal culture of Bastar and trying to figure out how Bastar can be projected as a culturally rich region rather than the prevalent negative image which is popular. Also, we are trying to understand and put forth the similarities in the tribal culture and Hindu religious traditions. Till now we have studied the socially strong Halba community and we have studied the Halbi language to some extent. The results of the study of the Halba community were put forth before various groups (Dal(s) and SPGs) in the form of a series of articles. An activity of creating simple sentences in the Gondi language was carried out.

- **Sampark Daura:** Dec 2021 to Jan 2022

After a long gap of almost two years since December 2019, two of our volunteers managed a 10-day Sampark Daura in Chhattisgarh state. The primary focus of this tour was to furnish our old contacts and build new ones. During this tour, our volunteers had an enriching interaction with a few IAS & IPS officers. This was a huge opportunity for us to share our work, on and off the field in the past few years. They shared their experiences and gave inputs that will surely guide us in our approach to these study tours and various activities that are to be held in the upcoming years.

Apart from government officials, Viraj and Nikhil made some local friends too as they stayed with a few families among them. These visits were primarily in Raipur, Bijapur, Dantewada, Sukma, Jagdalpur districts. As said earlier, we had to fill in the gap of two years as we couldn't organize study tours due to Covid restrictions and this tour gave us a lot of inputs which we have to work upon in the future.



Arunchal Pradesh : Documentation Project of Adi Tribe



In the winter of 2020-21 Onkar Pradhan, Ganesh Phuke and Abhijit Abde from Pune went to Regional Institute of World's Antient Tribal Culture and Heritage (RIWATCH), Roing, Arunachal Pradesh for the documentation project of Adi tribe undertaken by Ministry of Indigenous Affairs of Arunachal Pradesh. Here is a short reflection of one of the team members.

Though our team was consisted of media industry experts, terrain and culture of Arunachal Pradesh were new to all of us. It was the guidance of enthusiastic and scholarly Vijay Swami ji, director of RIWATCH which helped immensely in designing the content of this project. We shot for 15 days with over 12 hours of total footage starting from Balek basti in Roing district to Geti village in Yingkiong district. We travelled distance of more than 800 Km to shoot cultural diversity of Adi Tribe, which is second largest tribe in Arunachal Pradesh. The final film of length of 30 mins was submitted to Ministry which was released at the hand of Hon. Chief Minister, Pema Khandu ji.



Competitive Examination Training : Arunachal Pradesh

- Arunachal Pradesh Public Service Commission (APPSC) Examination Coaching Program 2020-21 Jnana Prabodhini in collaboration with Seva Bharati AP

Since past eight years Jnana Prabodhini in collaboration with Seva Bharati has been conducting Free Camps to train students in Arunachal Pradesh for the various Competitive Public Service Commission Examinations. The teachers are students of the Jnana Prabodhini Competitive Examination Center, Pune who have given UPSC Civil Service (Main) Examination. In 2020-21 due to Covid Pandemic, an online program for all the three levels of APPSC Civil Services Examination was conducted.

Aim:

To motivate and guide students of Arunachal Pradesh to join Civil Services.

Objectives:

- 1) To generate awareness regarding civil services amongst students in Arunachal Pradesh
- 2) To provide orientation, avail skill training and teach basic content of civil service examination subjects of Prelim and Mains level as well as bridge the information deficit
- 3) To provide guidance for Personality test (Interview)

As the program was conducted online through Zoom platform for all the three levels, senior students of Jnana Prabodhini Competitive Examination Center who have appeared for UPSC examination worked as faculty. Some senior faculty and administrative officers also contributed to the coaching program. They gave orientation for the examination and taught basic concepts of the subjects given in the APPSC syllabus.

A) Coaching Program for Prelim Examination

Duration – 27 June to 6 Sept 2020, 36 sessions of 2 hours each

An attempt was made to give an orientation of the subjects and teach the basics of the subjects. Skill training sessions like Study method, Planning, MCQ approach, Prelim negative marking strategy were also conducted. The faculty used their own experience while teaching and gave orientation for reading techniques, notes making, time management, risk planning, and memory methods.

Along with orientation of subjects, 12 subject wise tests (75 marks each) and 2 Full comprehensive tests (200 marks each) were conducted. Discussion of each test was arranged to go into details of the subject and give exam orientation to the

students.

B) Coaching Program for Main Examination

Duration – 6 weeks – 30 Nov. 2020 to 17 Jan. 2021,

Sessions - 10 input sessions of 2 hours for each subject of General Studies.

Practice Tests - 10 section wise tests and 4 full Compulsory papers test were conducted. All the papers were checked digitally for every student by the allotted mentor and written feedback were given.

Special skill training sessions for Main examination were conducted in which study method, Notes making, Writing and presentation skill were covered.

Each student was allotted an administrative officer as a mentor. All the mentors were from various states like J & K, Rajasthan, Manipur, Gujarat etc.

Mentors conducted weekly meetings with the student and gave guidance for study, temperament, writing skills etc. It helped a lot to keep student's motivation high.

C) Coaching Program for Interview (Personality Test)

Duration – 4 weeks, 12 Sept to 13 Oct 2021

Sessions – 10 orientation sessions were conducted which included How to prepare for an Interview, Experience sharing by interview appeared students, Group activities, Current Events etc.

Mock Interviews – 3 sessions of Practice online mock interviews were conducted. Panel of four senior experts, administrative officers contributed as panel members for these interviews. After every interview they gave apt feedback for the improvement. 19 students participated in this program.

Mentoring – Each student was given one mentor who is working as an administrative officer for the individual guidance. Mentors conducted online meetings with their mentee to make them comfortable, and conducted one on one mock interviews for them.

Result – 13 students successfully got the place in the final list and have been selected for good posts

Circle Officer – 6, Dy. Supt. Of Police – 4, Asst. Section officer – 3

D) Online Felicitation Program for Successful Candidates

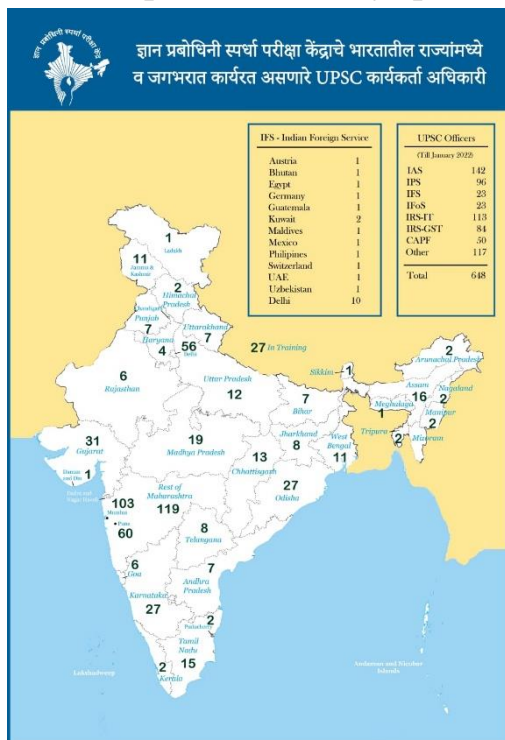
Online Felicitation Program was organized to felicitate these successful candidates. Candidates shared their experiences and expressed their gratitude towards JPCEC and their teachers and Mentors. Two of the teachers and Mentors shared their experiences of the interacting with these students. Each successful candidate was introduced to the gathering. Shri. Atul Kulkarni (ADG, CID, Maharashtra) expressed his thoughts and guided these students. Shri. Subhash

Deshpande (Senior Activist and Secretary, JP) guided all the attendees. Successful candidates and all the senior teachers, officers, social activists present in the program enjoyed it thoroughly.

We could develop relationships and bonds by building bridges of knowledge with the students of Arunachal Pradesh. Students are still in contact with respective faculty members through social media.

Observations

1. There are a considerable number of graduate and post graduate aspirants. However, it was observed that though opted for many higher learning it was for the most part without any specific career oriented goal.



2. The level of awareness as regards the structure, syllabus and sources of study of the competitive examinations was low amongst the aspirants.

3. The eagerness to learn was reflected in the sustained attendance in all the sessions and intense interaction.

4. The aspirants were not acquainted with the structured approach and long study sessions that preparing for civil services entail. Interactions with the students revealed low stamina as regards to daily self-study sessions.

5. Lack of accessibility was present as regards guidance as well as study material. Access to internet is another important issue.

6. It was observed that on account of sudden transition from a primitive to a westernized society the aspirant from the North-East finds it challenging to approach the preparation in the same fashion as an aspirant from the rest of the country. This is mainly due to absence of the social capital and experience that a gradual transition brings.

7. The students in their feedback and mentoring sessions reiterated the need for constant source of motivation also referring to the concept of Bubble Motivation.

Inauguration of Competitive Examination Centre at RIWATCH, Roing, AP



Competitive Examination Centre is inaugurated at RIWATCH in Arunachal Pradesh at the hands of Dr. Savita Kulkarni, HOD, JPCEC on 12th December 2021. This centre will work under the guidance of JPCEC, Pune. A library for competitive exams, a study room, well equipped class room for coaching classes, internet facility are developed in this centre. Regular online classes and short duration camps for preparation of UPSC and APPSC examinations will be organized through this centre.

Shri. Prashant Lokhande, (Commissioner, Planning, AP); Dr. Dhananjay Ghanwat (SP, Assam); Ms. Kasturi Sule, (Prob. IFoS, Digboi, Assam) with their families were present on this occasion. Five successful APPSC candidates of last year also attended this function.

Cultural Exchange Program - Ganapati Aarati

Introduction –

Ganesh festival, used to be the most hectic and lively period for the *Yuvak Vibhag* but the Covid restrictions made it difficult to celebrate it in our conventional way. Considering the situation volunteers at *Yuvak Vibhag* came up with the novel concept in 2020. Where we planned to invite people from all over the country to attend the Ganesh-aarati at some of our volunteer's house on virtual platform. We arranged total 22 aaratis in first year and with that experience we planned to scale it up this year.

Objectives –

The activity was planned with the objective of understanding various regional traditions and Festivals in our Nation.

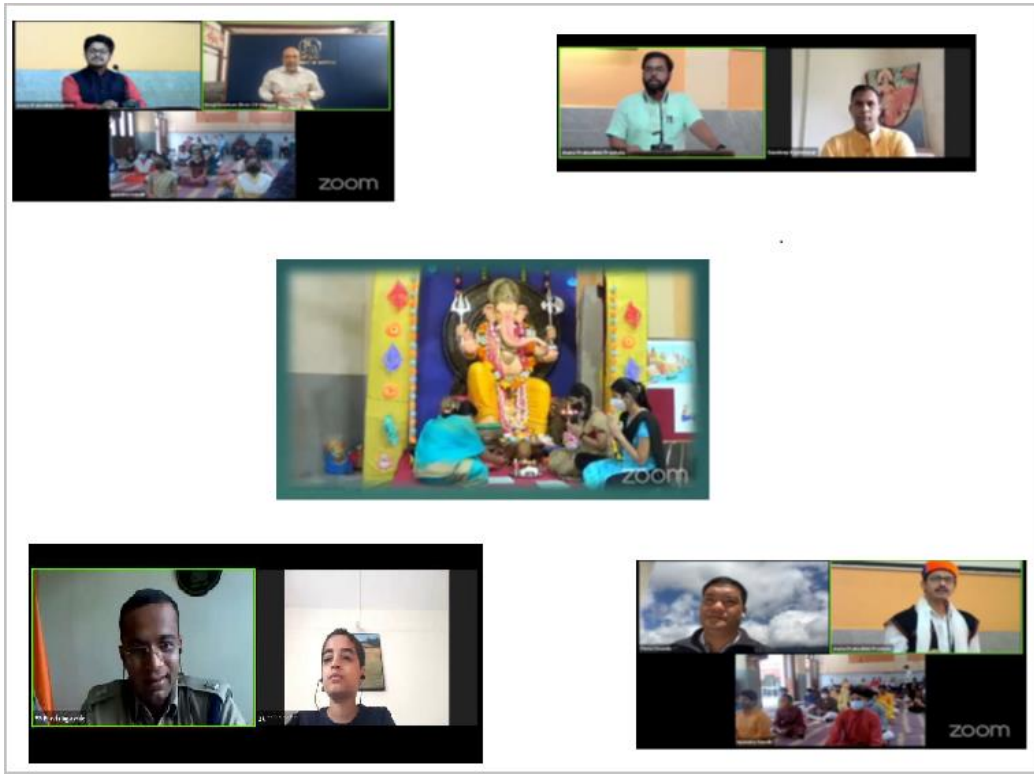
We at JP construe the Indian national Culture as the Diverse Manifestation of the Underlying Unity In the Nation. The activity of Ganesh-Aarati was the platform where our volunteers experienced it extensively. Post-aarati interactions were really interesting, where participants relished the similarities in their different cultures and developed long lasting bonds with each other.

Summary –

- 78 guests from 18 states and 4 religions were hosted by 75 families in Pune for the Virtual aarati.
- 40 volunteers participated in the activity as the coordinator for the aarati, where they facilitated the dialogue between the host and the Guest.
- The core team of 5 volunteers, executed the program during the 10 days of the festival.
- Kits containing the Prasad and some Gifts were sent to all the Guest Participants

Some Experiences –

1. A Family from Hariyana, fascinated by the way Ganesh Festival is celebrated in Maharashtra, resolved to celebrate it every year at their house. Their Host got them acquainted with all the necessary customs to be followed and the guest family installed the Ganesh-Murti to be worshipped for upcoming 10 days.
2. A group of Students in Arunachal Pradesh Performed their traditional dance and sang their tribal songs to make the Maharashtrian students hosting them aware about the rich culture and heritage of North-East India



Ganpati Aarati at Jnana Prabodhini Prashala –

Some senior and distinguished guests were invited at Prashala to interact with the students and share their experiences and express their thoughts over national integration. The activity helped students to understand diverse culture of India and to explore the underlying similarities. The QnA sessions during the activity gave our students a unique opportunity to interact with these eminent personalities.

Distinguished guests invited were :

1. Atulchandra Kulkarni – IPS ADG Maharaashtra
2. Pema Khandu – CM Arunachal
3. N. Biren Singh – CM Manipur
4. Padma Bandopadhyay – Air Marshal Retd.
5. Sandeep Kavishwar – Sah Sanghatan Mantri, Vanvasi Kalyan Ashram
6. Jamyang Tsering Namgyal – MP Ladakh
7. Pravin Ingavale – IPS Manipur
8. Gaur Gopal Das – ISKON

Special Purpose Group (SPG) for National Integration and Security

Special Purpose Group (SPG) for national integration and security (SPG) is the formation of Jnana Prabodhini's alumni association to work on specific work areas of expertise. SPG for National Integration and National Security (NINS) is working through various task forces. Brief summary of few of the task forces:

1. Foreign Relations Study group:

This group covers all issues and subjects which dot the international relations canvas. From history of India's foreign policy to its base and current outlook towards world. From climate change and sustainable development to global trade and economic policies and regulations in the world. In addition, studies relationship of India with its neighbors and major power centers in the world are also studied.

The group got formed due to an international relations course, this dimension of world politics never ceases to evolve and to study it constantly from India's perspective is what the group does. Group members regularly meet and discuss issues, they make presentations in periodic group meetings. The group's work is quite consistent, it has already held more than six rounds of presentations. It has taken up work of documentation of all these presentations now.

2. Islam Study Group:

One group studied Koran to understand Muslim aspiration and finding verses useful for social integration. Another group led by Dr. Manisha Shete conducted interviews of Muslim women to understand aspirations and challenges they face.

3. Cyber task force:

Cyber Crimes, misinformation campaigns, Cyber Hygiene Practices and learning various aspects of internet-based technology are the subjects of interests for this group.

4. Caste system:

This group is analyzing various events creating unrest due to caste discrimination.

5. The narratives and perspectives (Gaatha) group:

This group has studied role of religious identity and depiction of religion in the context of national integration. As part of that project the group aims to look at the portrayal and depiction of Hinduism, Indian culture and Indian society by the Western academia'. The group attempts to find if there are misinterpretations, what are the causes of those misrepresentations and if those misunderstandings are harmful to the basic tenets of national integration and national security. Discussions took place about basic doctrines of Hinduism, nuances of the word 'Dharma', secularism, interrelations among religion, culture, governance and society etc.

Contact Information

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