

Jnana Prabodhini National Integration Annual Report

Sept 2019 – Sept 2020

Jnana Prabodhini
510, Sadashiv Peth,
Pune, Maharashtra,
India 411030

Foreword

Jnana prabodhini has adopted National integration as one of its 10 principal areas of work. This is report for activities done during Sept 2019 to September 2020. This year was exceptional year. September to March had progressed with usual vigor. Covid disrupted usual routines and then it was all new experience for whole nation. Many suffered in initial stages but slowly everyone was in new reality where no one wanted to meet anyone. Even families tried to keep distance from relatives. Slowly everyone felt need to reconnect. People started calling each another, whatsapp and facebook become part of everyone's life and tools for virtual meets like zoom and google meet literally were new platforms for schooling even for elders.

Jnana Prabodhini have always been early user of new technologies and this time it was not any different. Jnana Prabodhini's own schools kept operating in this e-world like there was no break. Teacher's started adopting new tools. Labs and libraries started travelling to student's homes.

Simultaneously it enabled many across country to be part of this virtual connect. Not only Assam, Telangana and Chhattisgarh's teacher's were discussing new ways of experiential learning with JP's educational activity center, not only students from Leh and Arunachal were together getting tutoring for advanced courses of UPSC from JP's pune center but even JP Karykarta's invited someone from Manipur and Uttarakhand to celebrate Ganesh Festival over these virtual meetings. It was exciting time making us realize that when we want to find a way then even Pandemic is no big barrier.

One thing stood out in otherwise widening horizons is that though virus won't be restricted by political boundaries but when it comes to take care of people then we don't have any other alternative but to serve our Countrymen and our good friends of other nationalities will run to their nation to serve it's own problems. Nationhood is not a figment of imagination. It serves purpose. It connects, motivates and integrates societies where it really matters.

National Unity Day

31 October 2020

North East India: Reaching to remote places

Gyansetu

Introduction to the Project

Gyan Setu is a program conducted across various states of India. The year long program consists of visits by volunteers in batches to conduct science based workshops and camps for middle school students.

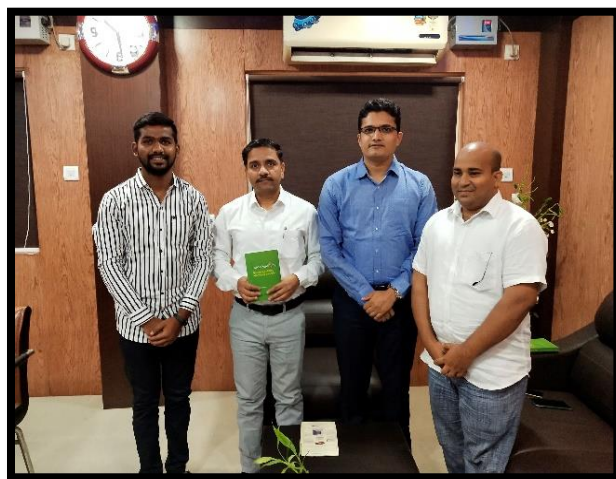
Content of the workshop comprises basic science concepts that are part of the science curriculum such as centrifugal force, pressure, waves, light, etc. These are taught using experiments, demonstrations, hands on models and discussions. The workshops also include games, stories and related activities.

Statistics at a glance: 2020

Sr.No.	Month	State	Places	No. of Volunteers	No. of Workshops	No. of Students
1	July	Jammu	Doda	7	6	290
2	November	Jharkhand	Gudabhandra, Dumriya	10	10	631
3	January	Assam	Parvatipur	4	Residential camp	60
Total				21	17	981

Visits by coordinators

Sr.No.	Duration	State	Place	Agenda
1	14 Oct 2019 To 19 Oct 2019	Assam	Dibrugarh, Tinsukia	School visit for review and feedback , college visit for workshop, Market analysis
2	20 Nov 2019 To 29 Nov 2019	Odisha	Bhubaneswar, Harichandanpur, Sambalpur, Barampur, Sunapur, Gunupur, Bhawanipatna	to visit people, institutes, schools - brief them about Gyan setu project - about workshop, process, plan future visit etc. (where necessary conduct demo session to demonstrate)

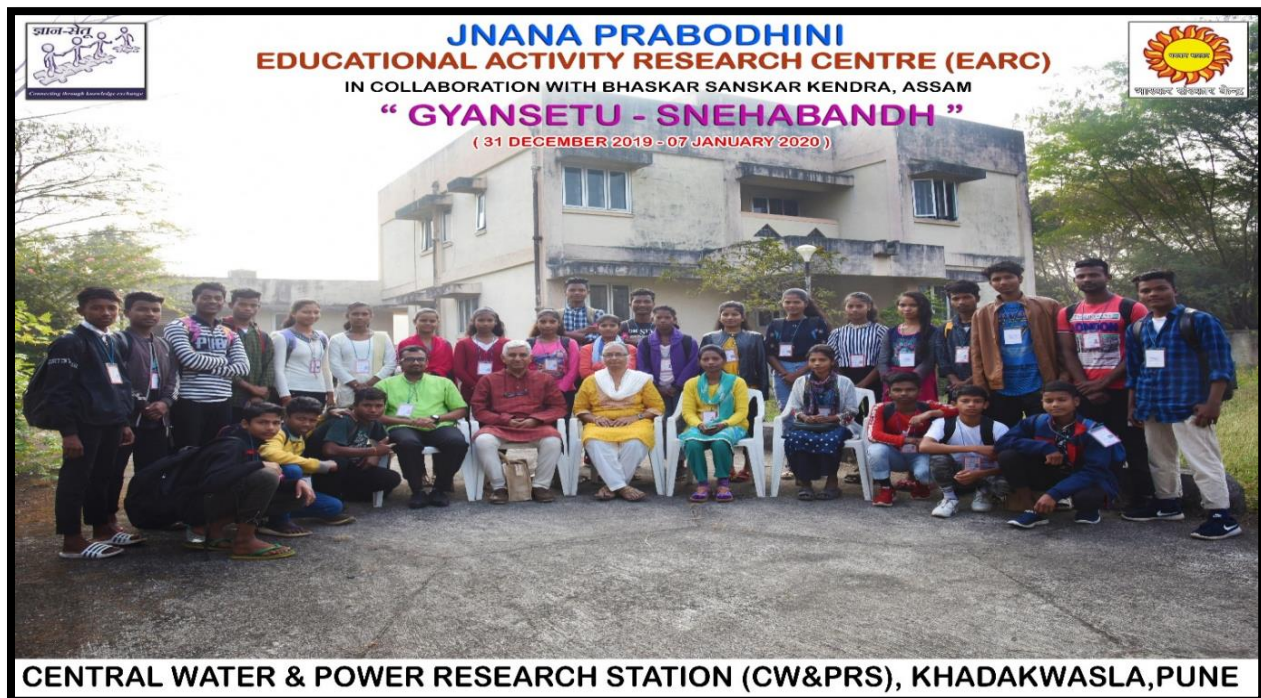


Annual Events

1. Student Exchange Visit

A group of 27 students and 5 teachers came from Bhaskar Sanskar Center - Parvatipur, Assam for the "exposure visit" under the 'Gyan Setu' program from December 31 to January 7 2020. For the past two years, with the frequency of twice a year, a group of Gyan Setu volunteers have been conducting residential camps in Parvatipur. Hence this program was planned as a next step in Gyan setu Project. During these 8 days at Nigdi Prabodhini, we have organized sport activities, hands on science training, science park visits etc. Then visit to Velhe to experienced rural culture and after words in Pune, we have arranged various activities like organization visits like NDA, CWPRS, NWA , historical visits like Parvati, Sinhagad, student's interaction and career orientation session. Cultural events of the Parvatipur group were held at Jnana Prabodhini Nigdi on January 2, Bharat Natya Mandir Pune on January 3 and Jnana Prabodhini Pune on January 7, in which Jhumair, Bihu, dance form, Assami Sadani, Marathi language song, Shrimant Shankardev, Veer Lachit Borphukan. A presentation on things and physical exercises based on, Sati joymoti.

Since last two years Gyan Setu has been conducting 6 day's residential camp for students of Bhaskar Sanskar Kendra. It has been very well received and has helped students to climb up the ladder of their holistic development. At this juncture, giving the exposure to outside world with well-defined set of activities will be helpful for all and may be life changing experience for few!!!



2. Gyan Setu Melawa

Like every year, this year on the occasion of Independence Day, Gyan Setu Melawa was held on 15th August, 2020. This year, an online Melawa was organized. The event was telecast live on Gyan Setu's Facebook page and YouTube channel. The main objective of the Melawa was to spread the word about Gyan Setu to as many people as possible, as well as to share the experiences of the groups that have visited in the past year. Students from Parvatipur Assam who came to Pune under the Gyan Setu project also shared their experiences. Mr. Ashok Warnekar Sir, Founder of Bhaskar Sanskar Kendra, Parvatipur Assam shared his thoughts through video. The chief guest. (BRIG.) Mr. Abhay Bhat (RETD.), Director, AIT, Pune added his experience to guide the group. The Melawa concluded with Hon. Subhashrao (secretory – Jnana Prabodhini) guidance.

Feedback : Online activity for Parvatipur students during April –May 2020

Online activity for Parvatipur students during April –May 2020

Three boys of Bhaskar Sanskar Kendra (Sanjay Bauri, Santosh Sahu & Shankar Bahri) from Parbotipur, Assam are in Nagpur. They have appeared for class XII (Commerce) exam & have come here to learn more about Accountancy and Computer software, which they missed due to non-availability of teachers at Parbotipur. Regular classes were arranged at Nagpur and were about to start. But suddenly Lockdown was declared in the country & the boys got stuck up in the house. The entire plan would have failed but for Gyan-Setu of Jnana Prabodhini Pune. Jnana Prabodhini arranged for ONLINE CLASSES of both the subjects. Vedangi Patwardhan is teaching Accountancy, while Aniket Gayakavad & Anagha Joshi are guiding in Microsoft words & excel. The students were very weak in the subjects and had fear complex about them. However the teachers/guides have succeeded not only in removing the fear, but also in developing keen interest in the subjects. I can see them sitting on the table & practicing the subjects whenever they are free. Many a times they keep discussing among themselves and approach me when they get stuck up due to technical terms. One thing I would like to make a special mention of is, the quick adjustment of wavelengths by teachers to match with those of these rural students. Students feel at home with them. A rare quality worth appreciation.

Congratulations & Thanks

-Mr.Ashok Varnekar (Founder ,Bhaskar Sanskar Kendra)

Vivek Inspire

Introduction to the Project

Nurturing gifts from the mountains

Vivek Inspire commenced as a collaborative effort of EARC, Jnana Prabodhini and Vivekanand Kendra Vidyalayas, Arunachal Pradesh Trust (VKVAPT) in the year 2015. This 5 years follow-up program got its closure in this year with 3 batches of students catered and some of the local teachers trained. The project was represented and recognized on the international level through a poster presentation at World Conference for /gifted and Talented Children (WCGTC) conducted at Nashville, Tennessee, USA. The international recognition made is reflect on the efforts and inputs and also provided us with a good opportunity to present our learning on a bigger platform. The project was acclaimed by international scholars who gave their valuable inputs for the further execution.

Harman Inspired has been our strong partner in this 5 years long journey. They supported us with their timely financial support throughout the 5 years. It would not have been easy to execute the project which had its base camp in the remote schools of Arunachal Pradesh, without the strong financial investment which was made by Harman.

Visit to Arunachal Pradesh

Dates: 13th January 2020 to 29th January 2020

Agenda of the visit:

1. Data collection from the participant students, parents and teachers, to check the sustainability of the project in the participant schools by visiting the schools
2. Documentation of the different perspectives of all the stake holders about the project
3. Meeting with VKVAPT authorities for planning further

Schools covered in each cluster:

Ziro Cluster	Itangar Cluster	Roing Cluster
Ziro	Chimpu	Jairampur
Joram	Vivek Vihar	Kharsang
Yazali	Banderdewa	Roing
Kuporijo	Nirjuli	Tezu
		Tafragam
		Sunpura

Other proceedings of the year

Being the last year of the project the focus was mostly given on the data collection from different stake holders and sources related to the project. The data were further compiled into different formats.

It mostly contained:

- Demographic details of the students, teachers and facilitators
- Content delivered in the workshops in last 5 years to be compiled
- Anecdotal records in the form of photographs, feedback and writings
- Achievements and outcomes from the project

The international recognition gave a research perspective to look at the project and variety of data which is produced and compiled. Various research titles for the further studies were brain-stormed.

Facilitators who conducted the workshops in Arunachal were called together to compile two teachers manuals to be compiled out of the content delivered. One manual will be dedicated to the graded activities taken in the domains of cognitive and skill development. And the other will contain General Mental Ability Test (GMAT) patterns, activities and exercises for the teachers and students preparing for the scholastic competitive examinations. Both the manuals will be useful in order to replicate the similar project as well as to compile the taken efforts for further usage.

In every school visited following things were done:

1. Standardized testing with 10th std. students. (Mental ability and multiple talents self rating scale)
2. Feedback writing by 8th, 9th and 10th std. participant students of Vivek Inspire.
3. Feedback writing from the teachers who have worked as escorts and mentors with VI students.
4. Brief discussion with the principals of the schools regarding VI execution in their school and the sustainability.
5. Data collection from the students (demographic details and academic, non-academic records)
6. Parents meetings orienting them regarding the project and taking their feedback about the participant students.
7. Soft and hard resource sharing with the local teachers.

Resource material provided to the schools:

1. Pen drive with classroom and subject related resources for teachers
2. Be creative (Book)
3. 3D Magic (Book)
4. Observe – Do- Record: Physical Sciences, Candle, Life Sciences. (Books)
- 5 Assess diagnostic tests – 4th to 9th std. (English, Science and Maths)

Central India: Connecting to the Core - Chhattisgarh

Introduction to the Project

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. Jnana Prabodhini plans field visits to understand the region and society. They include:

1. Short duration Camps for local students, in which study tour participants can share their expertise with students
2. Visits to important organizations in the region and,
3. Dialogues with volunteers and life workers

Along with one's own learning, such study-tours develop connect between the participants and region. While enjoying the process of contributing to the society, they go through far ranging experiences and succeed in finding a greater motive for their life.

Cumulative Visits

For the last four years, such tours are consistently being carried out in Bijapur district of Chhattisgarh which is severely affected by Left Wing extremism. Over these four years, 18 young volunteers travelled to Bastar and conducted exposure camps for students in two residential hostels. All of these students belong to remote villages deeply suffering from the issues of Left-wing extremism and thus have been deprived of quality education. For them, the four- day camps mean a lot of happiness and their own space to explore themselves, explore new things. Since May 2017, we have conducted residential camps at Panchasheel Ashram, Kutru and Tomorrow's Foundation, Bijapur. The camps included interactive sessions such as dance, dramas and group activities. Science experiments were nothing less than a magic show for them, but students also understood the basic principles of science. We made use of short films to motivate them to achieve

something big in life. Some of them learn about computers in theory subjects but never get to know how it even looks like. They jump on to our laptops as soon as we open them and are fascinated by the world of computers. Sketching, origami are the fun activities conducted. Since we stay with them the whole day, there is rigorous exchange of ideas, thoughts and cultures. The local Adivasi dance they taught us gave a glimpse of their culturally rich life. We ate with them, we played with them, we danced with them and so we became one of them.

Deeper Perspective

Shri. Subhashrao Deshpande, Secretary of Jnana Prabodhini, visited Bastar for 7 days in the month of April 2018. He met with people of Vanavasi Kalyan Ashram, Ramakrishna Mission and other NGOs which are working in Bastar for last few years. He also attended prime minister Narendra Modi's visit to Bastar and observed various social activities being performed in this area.

During our visit to Bastar in June 2019, we chose two more villages where we could conduct camps. At Halbaras and Bengaluru we went in the villages with the help of the local volunteers and gathered the children. A smaller module of our regular camps was designed for this two days visit. We spent most of our informal time playing with the kids and roaming around in jungles with them. We ended up making amazing bonds with the people of these villages and plan to reach out there frequently in the future.

Volunteer Experiences

Apart from conducting the camps, volunteers interacted with various government officials as well as NGO volunteers working in this region and tried to understand various perspectives of their work. These people have stayed here for years facing various challenges, and still not giving up on their efforts. It is much easier to blame the government for its non-efficient working, very carelessly we make loose comments on people's work; but we realized the importance of this work when we actually experienced the ground reality. At the end of every tour we get a strong feeling that there are a lot of similarities between Bastar and Pune. Cherishing upon these similarities will be a significant step towards building strong relations across India.

North India: Connecting Remotely - Jammu and Kashmir

Introduction to the Project

Jnana Prabodhini Competitive Examinations Centre

1) JKPSC and UPSC Training Modules, Doda, Jammu

Dr. Sagar Doiphode (Collector, Doda) of Jammu State is an alumnus of JP's Competitive Examinations Centre. A batch of total 50 students was started under his initiative for JKPSC and UPSC. Competitive Examinations Centre (CEC) provided full guidance to the participants/students.

Aim –

Providing educational assistance to the students from remote areas.

Building bridges with bordering states via knowledge.

Training the youth for various employment opportunities.

In this program, senior students from Competitive Examinations Centre (CEC) and officers provided students with valuable inputs as well as taught them various concepts. A student from Pune coordinated the whole process. Initially, there were meetings of all the volunteers. The kind of guidance which is required was discussed thoroughly and simultaneously the selection of teachers was done. Regular meetings of the teachers took place and their travel plans were laid out. Some teaching material was also produced in Pune.

Training –

A seven-week training program was conducted for 60 students from Doda and surrounding areas. Every week two teachers were going there.

The training program consisted of teaching two subjects in one week and examination as well as discussion of the previous week's subject. The last was reserved for daily practice exam and its discussion.

2) Arunachal Pradesh Public Service Commission (APPSC) Interview Training Module, 2020

In Arunachal Pradesh, 12 candidates were selected for the interview from the Mains Examination classes held in 2018. Interview training classes for these students were organized in coordination with SevaBharati. Total 20 students took guidance from these classes which include of our 12 students and 8 others.

The training classes took place on 20th and 21st March.

On 20th March, we arranged mainly lectures for guidance.

- a) Three officers from Arunachal Pradesh whom we have close contacts with, talked about overall situation, bureaucracy as well as the challenges of working in such an environment and current affairs of the Arunachal Pradesh and North East in general.
- b) From Pune, Vivek Kulkarni sir and Dr. KaustubhBondre sir had recorded two videos for these students. They talked about "How to prepare for an interview" and "how to use current affairs in interviews" respectively.
- c) After all the guidance sessions throughout the day, Savita Kulkarni and Vivek Kulkarni from Pune guided the students through 'Zoom Meeting' on 'Preparing for Interviews in Groups' and 'Doing Matakas on Difficulties during Direct Interviews'.

Shri. Prashant Lokhande, a senior officer from the Administration of Arunachal Pradesh, Shri. Ranpoha, an officer from the Forest Services and Shri. Deepak Dhamane from the Custom and Excise Services interacted with the students wholeheartedly.

Mock Interviews- On the second day i.e. 21st March, all the students gave mock interviews. Prabodhini looked after the entire organization of the program which included the mentors, the manpower and the structure and flow of the lectures while Seva Bharati provided all the facilities in Itanagar along with managing the schedule of the training program. Each student preparing for the interview was put in touch with an officer or a senior student from the Competitive Examinations Centre who acted as a mentor. The mentors guided the students and they interacted with each other via WhatsApp. The mock interviews were conducted using WhatsApp video call. All these efforts proved to be very successful as 8 students have been selected as officers for various posts.

3) Arunachal Pradesh Public Service Commission, Guidance Session for Preliminary Examination (June to September, 2020)

Examinations are conducted for the recruitment in the administrative services of Arunachal Pradesh. Our students have been going there to provide guidance to the students appearing for these examinations. This year, we organized an 11-week online guidance session for preliminary examination from June to September. The program was conducted with the help of Shri. Sandeep Kumar who is a part of SevaBharati, Arunachal Pradesh.

The introductory session was held on 26th June, 2020. The students appearing for UPSC and APPSC, Dr. Savita Kulkarni and Vivek Kulkarni from Pune along coordinator Umesh Ramteke and Mrunmayee Vaishampayan and the entire teaching faculty of this program were a part of this session. In this, everybody introduced themselves.

Dr. Savita Kulkarni gave a brief about the deep rooted connection Jnana Prabodhini has with Arunachal Pradesh and Northeastern India as well as the work it has been doing in various fields in the Northeastern states. She also apprised about the guidance sessions taken by the Competitive Examinations Centre from the last six years in Arunachal Pradesh. After this, the students gave their introduction. The geographical distance did not feel like a barrier, thanks to technology. The actual sessions started from 28th June immediately.

Revision of the subjects of the preliminary examination, practice tests followed by the discussion of these tests was the basic structure of these sessions. Lectures on crucial topics like study skills, management skills, strategy for tackling negative marking and studying current affairs were also conducted.

Three days were allotted to each subject- a revision session was held on Friday, practice test was conducted on Saturday and discussion of these tests was taken on Sunday of each week. This pattern was followed and entire syllabus was completed.

4) LehLadakh- Guidance Sessions for Competitive Examinations

Shri. Hrishikesh Divekar is currently working in Leh Ladakh.

We were able to start the UPSC sessions along with Vanvasi Kalyan Ashram from 11th July because of his assistance.

Considering the request from Shri. Paramjeet Singh of Vanvasi Kalyan Ashram, this program was conducted for the students willing to appear for UPSC and JKPSC. The news regarding the same was broadcasted on the television and around 50 students enrolled for the program.

From those, approximately 25 were able to attend the sessions since around 20 students faced severe network issues because of the geographical conditions and extreme weather. Despite of all these difficulties, students used to attend the sessions with commendable dedication.

The way the students interacted with us was also praiseworthy.

In the initial stage, we completed the skills training sessions for the students from Leh, separately while the practice tests and test discussions were conducted along with the students of Arunachal Pradesh.

Training the Teachers

Paramita Group of Schools, Karimnagar, Telangana

Paramita" means perfection. Over the past 25 years, Paramita School has grown to become a leader in Education as an institution that installs a passion for learning, and innovation. Paramita School offers State, CBSE curriculum, Paramita is regarded as one of Telangana"s top schools with its high standards of teaching methodology, Conversation Program, Project Based Learning, Neuro Linguistic Program and global culture in every aspect of learning. Paramita schools have adopted PBL model practices at Jnana Prabodhini Prashala. This year apart from content training the main focus was to set Project Based Learning organization structure and follow-up methods.

Vivekanand Kendra Shikshak Prasar Vibhag, Assam

Vivekananda Kendra Shiksha Prasar Vibhag (VKSPV): An Educational Project of Vivekananda Kendra Kanyakumari works with the twin objectives of Man Making-Nation Building envisioned by the great Patriot Saint Swami Vivekananda. Presently VKSPV has under its set-up 25 Vidyalayas (24 in Assam and 1 in Nagaland), all of them coeducational and CBSE affiliated. A. Aryabhatta Anushandhanatmak Vijnan Prakalp (AAVP) Conducted by VKSPV, is a regular programme for the students of VKVs in Assam and Nagaland to foster the growth of Scientific temperament among the students. Training sessions were organized for teachers and students to orient methods of science to investigate a problem. In the training guidelines and instructions were given to present the project, project visualization, how to investigate, utilizing time frame, subject selection etc. were taken care of. VKSPV teachers conducted cluster level camps for students. Along with orientation sessions special focus was on mentor development, who can take over this program. As this was the third year for investigatory science an assessment was done to review the training module and implementation.

Activities during Covid - 19 circumstances

We all are hit with the Covid - 19 pandemic since February 2020. Though it has put a hold on us travelling to Bastar, it also opened new opportunities to connect with everyone in different fashion. Connecting with students for an hour-long video call gave as much pleasure as staying with them in the camps did. A casual conversation & just a chance to (virtually) meet each other after months meant a lot for everyone. So much has happened since we met last and students have a lot to tell us!!

To consistently work for some cause, one needs to be well aware of different dimensions of work as well as the people it supposed to be done with. We used this period to update our understanding in different areas. As the then prime minister Dr. Manmohan Singh had said in 2010, Left Wing Extremism is the biggest threat to internal security of India. This movement was thoroughly studied by us and presented in front of the group. It's an open secret that LWE has linkages & networks in the urban areas as well, for quite a long time.

These rural & urban aspects, their reasons and impacts, tactics & strategies etc. were thoroughly studied by the group members. In last couple of years there have been several arrests made in urban areas under UAPA (Unlawful Activities Prevention Act), arrestees being alleged to have Maoist connections & are usually referred to as 'Urban Naxals'. Because this series of arrests bring forward new possible ways of modern warfare & at the same time UAPA grants huge powers to government against arrestees, we studied UAPA in legal terms with appropriate case studies and the presentations were made. These discussions helped us understand details of events, but at the same time also raised a few questions looking ahead.

Roots of Naxalism in India are associated with lack of land reforms in 70's & 80's. Unusual distribution of land & resources provided fuel to the provoking Maoist ideology and in next 20 years the 'Red Corridor' came into existence across 10 states. 'Wildlife Protection Act' of 1972 added fuel to this. Though made with desirable intent to protect our wildlife, it made thousands of Adivasis homeless,

jobless in one night. No wonder it was used by Naxals to exploit the anti - government sentiment. Though some of this damage was undone by 'Forest Rights Act' of 2006, lot of damage had happened during 30 years in between. We studied both these acts in detail & their impacts on lives of Adivasis and the ways ahead. Even in last 15 years Adivasis could not get a lot of Forest rights back, owing to illiteracy, their lack of legal knowledge and lack of paperwork. Some of the promising movements for this purpose are being carried out in Maharashtra, so we studied them too. While doing these studies, we also realised that we need to know more about enriching lifestyle of Adivasis. Many times, their culture is said to be primitive or backward, but we believe it has a lot to offer us. Language is a best medium to express any ideas & cultures. So, we started studying Gondi language, at the same time reading about the traditions as well. We tried to translate some sentences in Gondi, and are planning to use them while we interact with people, students. Communicating with someone in his/her own language creates a lot of warmth & comfort with each other.

We found some of the traditions very interesting. Dussehra is celebrated all over India, but among many other festivals, it's a huge one in Bastar lasting 75 days. There is a tradition in some tribes, where the god is asked to be present in Lok Adalat every year & is accused of his doings. Though tribal life is a very simple life, it is rich with such progressive thoughts too. Getting to know such things is very fascinating and we would most certainly keep learning about tribal life in the times to come.

During the Ganpati festival, we invited our friends from Bastar for online aarti at our place. During the 10-day festival 20 guests from 10 different states participated in this program and had wonderful interactions with us. Our families and friends could also get a chance to meet these guests and know their cultures. This proved to be a great occasion for cultural exchange and it was evident that we have many more things in common than we actually thought! We also made a small kit of prasad & gifts and sent it across India to our guests. They all were delighted with this gesture and very happy with the interactions during live programs. With all this new knowledge and experiences in the 'new normal' we are getting more equipped to make better judgement of things, once we resume our regular visits to Bastar and that will certainly help in a longer run.