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### SHIKSHA Kiran: A gleaming ray...



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### Flag-off of SHIKSHA Kiran ...



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### Rangolis made by SHIKSHA+ ...



At SHIKSHA+ center of Gram Panchayat Sarura Kala village, on the batch closing day, learners expressed their gratitude towards SHIKSHA+ through rangolis.

For feedback  
please contact:  
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shivnadarfoundation.org](mailto:editorial.shiksha@shivnadarfoundation.org)

## Life Behind Masks: The Many Shades of COVID

On January 30, 2020, India confirmed its first coronavirus case in Kerala, but until the beginning of March, the Indian people hadn't paid much attention to the virus. The government, the ministry of health and family welfare, to be specific, though, had taken note of news trickling in from



Courtesy: Council of Europe

China about a new disease that had resulted in acute respiratory infections, and activated the Joint Monitoring Group to keep track of developments. By the time India announced a nation-wide lockdown on March 24, India had reported 536 cases in several states, including Delhi, Telangana and Rajasthan, and 10 deaths.

The World Health Organization (WHO) had gotten in touch with China, and soon the world learnt that corona virus—which affects many different species around the world—had made the jump from an unknown animal species to humans once again. Worst of all, the novel virus, known as Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome-Coronavirus 2, or SARS-CoV-2, was different from the coronavirus (the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome or SARS-CoV) that had spooked Hong Kong in 2003. Then, came the novel coronavirus, or SARS-CoV-2, which turned the whole world upside down as we know it.

Slowly, as a community, we learned why protective measures were so important—we had to slow down the disease and prevent it from spreading to others because the virus affected the upper respiratory tract and could easily spread when one sneezed or coughed. Plus, India's health system was stretched thin, and going to the hospital was akin to being in a nightmare. Today, we have learned to distinguish between an antigen test (to detect a present infection) from an antibody test (to detect past infection) and medical jargon has become a part of drawing room conversations. That community awareness, along with public health services, plays a large role in preventing disease, is another thing the books emphasises on. ■

– SURABHI GUPTA,  
Associate Manager

### Disclaimer

This is a Special Edition Newsletter which entails information from August 2020-March 2021. All the programs and projects covered in this edition were introduced by SHIKSHA Initiative during the lockdown. We will be starting regular monthly newsletter from September 2021 onwards.

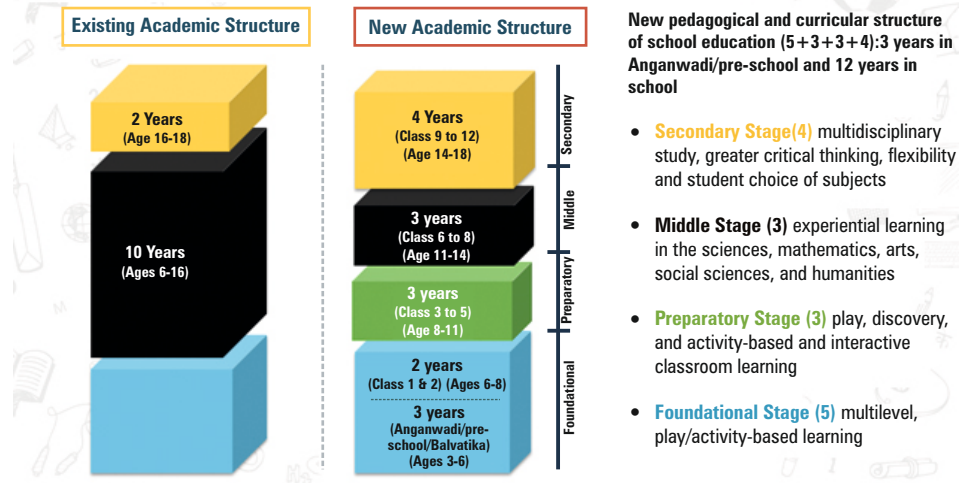
# National Education Policy 2020

On 29th of July last year, the Government of India unfurled a revolutionary National Education Policy, popularly known as NEP 2020. It was a radical move as for the first time, after 34 years, the government formulated a new education strategy replacing the previous one, announced in 1986 and revised in 1992. The key aim of the new policy has been to accelerate digitalisation and technological advancements and practical skills in the overall Indian educational landscape, helping the country transform into a global talent powerhouse.

With a year into its implementation, many industry players and field veterans have lauded the policy for its truly futuristic features as it is ushering the nation into a space where education strives for equity, accessibility and excellence. NEP 2020, with its focus on strengthening the school, higher education & vocational education ecosystem, is trying to create an environment facilitating students in the actualisation of their full potential.

In school education, the policy focuses on overhauling the curriculum, “easier” Board exams, a reduction in the syllabus to retain “core essentials” and thrust on “experiential learning and critical thinking”. In a significant shift from the 1986 policy, which pushed for a 10+2 structure of school education, the new NEP pitches for a “5+3+3+4” design

## Transforming Curricular & Pedagogical Structure



**New pedagogical and curricular structure of school education (5+3+3+4): 3 years in Anganwadi/pre-school and 12 years in school**

- **Secondary Stage (4)** multidisciplinary study, greater critical thinking, flexibility and student choice of subjects
- **Middle Stage (3)** experiential learning in the sciences, mathematics, arts, social sciences, and humanities
- **Preparatory Stage (3)** play, discovery, and activity-based and interactive classroom learning
- **Foundational Stage (5)** multilevel, play/activity-based learning

*Courtesy: New Academic Structure under NEP*

corresponding to the age groups 3-8 years (foundational stage), 8-11 (preparatory), 11-14 (middle), and 14-18 (secondary). This brings early childhood education (also known as pre-school education for children of ages 3 to 5) under the ambit of formal schooling. The mid-day meal programme will be extended to pre-school children. The NEP says students until Class 5 should be taught in their mother tongue or regional language.

The progressive policy with its multidisciplinary approach is creating a long due tectonic shift in the industry by moving away from a content-heavy curriculum towards promoting critical thinking, developing a holistic view, and

infusing an inquiry-based attitude. It is encouraging innovative, analytical, observational and discussion-oriented learning. Besides, it has also encompassed a modernistic assessment approach by introducing SAFAL (Structured Assessment For Analysing Learning), a high-order thinking skills-based assessment procedure. NEP 2020 has, with its forward-looking outlook and ambitious approach, brought in enormous opportunities for the country's young population to reach their full potential and leverage this mass skill development movement to create a better future.

– **RENU CHAUHAN,**  
Sr. Project Associate

## In Focus

# Initiatives during COVID-19

To bridge the gap between students and education during COVID-19 pandemic, SHIKSHA Initiative launched programs and research studies that ensured the students and learners are not devoid of learning when schools are closed.

## SHIKSHA Kiran: A gleaming ray of hope

On 29th January 2021, 'SHIKSHA Kiran' by Shiv Nadar Foundation was unveiled by Dr. Satish Chandra Dwivedi, Hon'ble Minister for Basic Education Uttar

Pradesh. SHIKSHA Kiran is aimed at bringing the classroom to the doorsteps of students and adults across rural UP. The program uses specially designed

vehicles to cover 36 villages across the three districts of Sitapur, Bulandsahar, Gautam Budh Nagar in UP thus reaching out children and adults who have lost access to education and literacy opportunities due to the COVID-19 pandemic.





Hon'ble Minister addressing the event at the launch of SHIKSHA Kiran



SHIKSHA Team during the launch event of SHIKSHA Kiran

Speaking at the occasion, Hon'ble State Minister for Basic Education in Uttar Pradesh, Dr Satish Chandra Dwivedi said, "COVID-19 pandemic and closure of schools has impacted the learning curve of students, especially in rural parts of our country. The SHIKSHA Kiran team has created a remarkable initiative to take basic school education to students of remote villages who have limited access to digital resources. I would like to applaud their efforts towards ensuring that these young students do not miss out on their learning journey in these challenging times. I would also like to thank Shiv Nadar Foundation for this initiative and I dedicate this program to the state of Uttar Pradesh."

SHIKSHA Kiran is a part of the larger SHIKSHA Initiative, started by the Shiv Nadar Foundation in 2012 with a mission to create a literate and empowered India. Over the last nine years, SHIKSHA Initiative have worked towards improving the learning and retention outcomes among rural primary school students by leveraging Information Communication Technologies (ICT) and also bringing basic literacy programs to adults. And the efforts have shown visible results in 54,000 students in over 650 schools and train close to 1500 teachers in using ICT to make the pedagogy more effective and engaging. SHIKSHA Kiran is yet another effort in our overall mission and is especially critical given that there is an



SHIKSHA Kiran classes being held



urgent need to ensure that no students get left behind.

SHIKSHA Kiran learning units will work to bridge the education delivery gap that has arisen because of the pandemic and will cover key learning inputs aimed at

primary school students in an especially designed 15-week program. It will also deliver adult education and awareness programs across the target villages. ■

– MANJULA YADAV  
Associate Manager

### Basic Education Minister's Visit to Sita Rasoi and PS Chaudiya Pracheen



Hon'ble Dr. Satish Chandra Dwivedi visiting SKG centre, Sita Rasoi and Intervening School, Chaudiya Pracheen



Hon'ble Minister of Basic education, Dr. Satish Chandra Dwivedi has inaugurated the new initiative of SNF SHIKSHA Kiran and visited SKG center– Sita Rasoi

& our intervening school– Chaudiya Pracheen. He was accompanied by the Project Director, SHIKSHA Initiative– Mr. Robin Sarkar, Program Head–

SHIKSHA Expansion, Mr. Mayank Sinha, Basic Education Officer for School Education, Mr. Ajeet Kumar and Mr. Sandeep Kumar, Chief Development Officer, Sitapur. The state's Education Minister traveled from Lucknow to SHIKSHA Shiv Nadar Foundation office, VIDYAGYAN Campus under Sidhauri tehsil of Sitapur district, both around 55 km from state capital, and interacted

with parents as well as teachers and students, an official statement said here, as reported by media. In most parts of Uttar Pradesh, the classes for students of 1 to 5 has been hold, after ten long months, keeping in mind COVID-19 SOPs. ■

– **MANJULA YADAV**  
Associate Manager

prepared step helps to continue learning without any halt. The program caters to both children and adults.

It was found that increased time of content delivery led to a research and evaluation of an auditory program. The Meena Manch program of UNICEF was taken into consideration while drafting the evaluation framework of the auditory program, 'SHIKSHA Ki Goonj'. The framework was designed to conduct a baseline-endline.

The baseline-endline tool was designed for different stakeholders such as parents, students and team members. The tool incorporated both the elementary and S<sup>+</sup> where the relevance, effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability of SHIKSHA Ki Goonj was measured.

Through the program an awareness of COVID-19 related protocols was also

## SHIKSHA Ki Goonj (SKG)



Students learning in SHIKSHA Ki Goonj Class

During Pandemic SHIKSHA Initiative took a leap of faith to stay committed to the goal of providing literacy for inclusive and empowered society. SHIKSHA Initiative launched the program “SHIKSHA Ki Goonj” at Sitapur, Gautam Budh Nagar and Bulandshahr districts of Uttar Pradesh in the months of August and September 2020. This initiative

is designed keeping in mind the current situations and all the norms related to COVID-19 has been strictly followed.

Objective of the program is to keep its beneficiaries engaged with their learning by delivering the content through public addressing system with doses of entertainment. Well thought and

Phase	Locations	Households	Villages
Phase I	Sitapur, Gautam Budh Nagar, Bulandshahr	510	14
Phase II	Sitapur, Gautam Budh Nagar, Bulandshahr	355	12

Source: Operations Team



Certificate Distribution at SKG centre

propagated. Some of the parents/guardians were happy to find their children engaged with the programme and sitting with their copy and pencil. Adults were appreciating the information received for the various schemes (Sukanya Smridhi Yojana, Emergency numbers such as 108, 112, School Enrolment Process) run by the Government. This initiative has given an edge to the monotonous routine life of the villagers, especially during the tough time of the pandemic. ■

– **OPERATION TEAMS**  
(Expansion and Dadri)



## Flag-off of SHIKSHA Kiran by Roshni Nadar Malhotra



Flag-off of SHIKSHA Kiran from Shiv Nadar University

'SHIKSHA Kiran' was officially flagged off on the 16th of October 2020. Ms. Roshni Nadar Malhotra, Chairperson, HCL Technologies and Trustee, Shiv Nadar Foundation graced the occasion and flagged off the initiative in presence of Mr. Robin Sarkar, Project Director, SHIKSHA Initiative. ■

– **SURABHI GUPTA,**  
Associate Manager

## Perna Sarathi

In an initiative to reach out to maximum children, the government has launched Mission Perna Yojana to improve the education levels of children. In this scheme, cooperation from social organizations have been taken to monitor implementation of government schemes.



Resource Coordinator, Deepak Kumar with BSA, Suraj Nagar, Gautam Budh Nagar

The government has appointed Perna Saarathi in every district to keep a close watch on the activities conducted in the schools. To monitor the daily activities, a State Resource Group (SRG) and five Assistant Resource Person (ARP) have been deployed in each block at the district level. Apart from this, the District Coordinator is already posted in the department for monitoring, which plays a part in the operation of the schemes from time to time.

Deepak Kumar briefly explained about SHIKSHA Initiative followed by SHIKSHA Ki Goonj. BSA appreciated the efforts and suggested commencing SHIKSHA's ICT classes in Etah, Uttar Pradesh. ■

– **DEEPAK KUMAR,**  
Resource Coordinator

## MESSAGE FROM PROJECT DIRECTOR



Robin Sarkar

I trust everyone is safe and taking best possible care of themselves and families. In the past few months, the developments across the world have been impacting us immensely. The aggravation of COVID-19 in several parts of the world including India has raised a lot of health concerns. I would like to share your anxiety and preoccupations, at the same time express my solidarity with you and your families. Keeping all these aspects in mind SHIKSHA Initiative is doing its utmost to ensure minimal health risks for all the team members and their families as well as the students and learners.

SHIKSHA Initiative aims at creating a society that is all inclusive and empowered. Step forward in that direction, we launched two programs during the pandemic – SHIKSHA Kiran and SHIKSHA Ki Goonj with the sole aim to bridge the gap between community and educational institutions that was created due to the advent of lockdown. It shows our commitment towards our vision in these trying times.

We put well-being of SHIKSHA Initiative fraternity on top priority. Persistently trying to overcome the hurdles in our way to make education accessible to all. I greatly take pride in the way the dedicated teams have shown their pliability and promptness upon the innovative techniques of field operations keeping in mind all the COVID-19 protocols, as well as our students and learners who have supported in making this work possible, which I appreciate immensely.

We are quite hopeful and optimistic that situations will recuperate, however until then let us present our very best capabilities, with understanding, patience, and compassion. I am confident that with our collective efforts, we shall overcome every barrier and stand victorious to achieve our goals.

Stay Healthy and Stay Safe.

Goodluck! ■

## SHIKSHA spreads its Wings!



MoU signed with Basic Education Department, Chitrakoot

SHIKSHA Initiative team was approached by District Administration of Chitrakoot for implementation of the SHIKSHA ICT Classes in the schools. SHIKSHA Team met with Basic Education Department of Chitrakoot, Mr. Seshmani Dubey and Mr. Amit Asrohi, CDO.

During the meeting, BSA and CDO appreciated SHIKSHA's efforts in being an agent of change and acquainting the schools with ICT Technology. SHIKSHA team explained about the program in detail and a formal MoU was signed for



MoU signed with Basic Education Department, Siddharth Nagar

implementing SHIKSHA's ICT Program in 200 schools.

In similar news, SHIKSHA Initiative's biggest intervention in Uttar Pradesh has been in Siddharth Nagar district of Uttar Pradesh. A MoU was signed between the SHIKSHA Initiative and the Department of Basic Education and BSA, Siddharth Nagar for implementation of ICT enabled classrooms in all the 360 schools of the district. ■

– **DEENA NATH TRIPATHI,**  
Divisional Coordinator

This Association kicked off with conducting a Training Need Identification (TNI) exercise with the selected teachers of potential schools where the program is to be implemented. Mr. Omkar Rana, BSA, Chitrakoot shortlisted 40 teachers from 20 schools, These teachers will be responsible for receiving and disseminating data and information between the two partners. As per the MoU signed Elementary Program of SHIKSHA will be initiated in



Content Delivery Activity during training

200 schools of the district and count will further increased in a phased manner. On the closing day of the training, BSA, BEO and DC encouraged the teachers to use ICT based SHIKSHA content and pedagogy while teaching the students. BSA stressed on the fact that ICT based teaching is not only interesting, but also increases the retention of content and also students in school. ■

– **DEENA NATH TRIPATHI,**  
Divisional Coordinator

## Induction Training at BRC Karbi, Chitrakoot

An action packed 2 days of workshop of 40 teachers was conducted at District Chitrakoot on 17th and 18th February 2021 under the expansion of Elementary Program. Two-member team comprising of Mohd Tahir and Kamlesh Kumar Maurya delivered an induction training for the teachers along with a session on

mission, vision of SHIKSHA and details of the program and its process as Chitrakoot is going to be the new ground of action for SHIKSHA Initiative. District administration invited SHIKSHA team, Sitapur to run its flagship program, SHIKSHA Elementary in 200 government schools.

## SHIKSHA Initiative's Crowning Accomplishment

SHIKSHA Initiative is proud to have Mr. Anuj Goswami, a wonderful teacher in the role of ICT enabled, e-Learning content developer for our adult literacy wing (SHIKSHA<sup>+</sup>). He was felicitated with International Teachers Award (ITA) and Global Teaching Excellence Award (GTEA) in Dec 2020 for his remarkable contribution for student development with ICT category.



It is judged in the basis of contribution of nominee, a questionnaire is issued to gather in the information. Jury consists of member from Advisory to HRD Ministry, Eminent Educationists, Giants from IT industry. The selection of the awardees was based on the process of nomination and thorough research by jury. Various parameters were considered by the jury to choose the recipients of the award. ■



## Rangolis made by SHIKSHA<sup>+</sup> center learners on batch closing day



Rangolis made at SHIKSHA<sup>+</sup> Centre in Sarura Kala Village

At SHIKSHA<sup>+</sup> center of Gram Panchayat Sarura Kala village, on the batch closing day, learners expressed their gratitude towards SHIKSHA<sup>+</sup> through Rangolis. It was a delight to see these Rangolis as they showcased their learnings and awareness about COVID-19.

– **SMRITI RIA PATAR,**  
Associate Manager



## Project CCC (Coordinating, Connecting, Contacting)

During the closure of the schools, many readily available infrastructures were used to disseminate education. The government was already working towards the digitalisation but during this time the need was felt more than ever. The urban infrastructure enabled students to learn online easily but the rural infrastructure posed a hindrance. It was then decided to make WhatsApp groups so that the parents with smart phone could join the groups and share the content with their children at home in rural areas. The WhatsApp groups were made under 'Mission Prerna' and E-Pathshala. The groups were made at various level. For example - Block Level where the group consisted of BSA, BEOs and Mission Prerna Quality Cell Members. Groups at school level consisted of Head Master, teachers and parents. SHIKSHA-SNF members were also included in these groups to provide support and awareness. The team contacted the parents of their respective schools. Content with Audio-Video links was shared with parents who had smart phones through WhatsApp groups.

– **MANJULA YADAV,**  
Associate Manager

### Project CCC

Total Districts	6
Total Villages	225
Total Schools	225
Total Teachers	1044
Total Parents	2945
Total Students	5890

Source: Operations Team

## Numbers in 2020

### SHIKSHA Elementary (2020-21)

Total Schools (Till March 2020)	259
Total Schools (Till February 2021)	279
Total Number of Districts	12
Total Number of Students	17192
Total Number of Males	8278
Total Number of Females	8046

### SHIKSHA<sup>+</sup> (2020-21)

Total Number of Districts	3
Total Number of Blocks	3
Total Number of Villages	210
Total Number of Batches Completed	154
Total Number of Batches Running	281
Total Number of Learners	2057
Total Number of Females	1785
Total Number of Males	272

### SHIKSHA Ki Goonj

Total Villages	26
Total Households	832
Total Students	1664
Total Learners	832

### SHIKSHA Kiran

Total Villages	15
Total Students	478
Total Learners	369

## Success Stories

## Sandhya's Journey from SHIKSHA Ki Goonj to SHIKSHA Kiran



Sandhya is a Grade 2 student of Mahakhari Primary School who was very actively involved in SHIKSHA Ki Goonj and is currently enrolled in SHIKSHA Kiran program of SHIKSHA Initiative. She has been very enthusiastic since the beginning of SHIKSHA Ki Goonj, participated in all the activities and games that were a part of the program and encouraged her peers to learn more.

Sandhya has been a very good student since the beginning, says her father. She brought her father during SHIKSHA Ki Goonj classes and he was estatic to see his daughter have fun and learn at the same time. SHIKSHA Kiran focusses on learning in a playful way to encourage participation and engagement.

She has been an inspiration to other children and parents alike, who are hesitant to send their wards to attend the classes. ■

– ARUN KUMAR PAL,  
Senior Field Supervisor

## A story of Determination

This is a story of Lailun, aged 32, from Aadhna village, who enrolled herself in SHIKSHA<sup>+</sup> centre and it has been life changing for her. She is not dependent on anyone now and is much more confident than before. She also shared an anecdote where her daughter was admitted to a hospital in Lucknow and when she was instructed to go to a particular room number, she did not ask for her husband's help and found the room herself by identifying the numbers. This story speaks volume about the impact of the program.



When she first started coming to the SHIKSHA<sup>+</sup> centre, she was hesitant to learn but looking at other empowered learners, she came to the centre everyday and practiced with determination. Now she proudly says, "I can write my name, my husband's name and even my village's name".

Joining SHIKSHA<sup>+</sup> centre has been life altering for her. Lailun expresses her heartfelt gratitude towards SHIKSHA Initiative and Shiv Nadar Foundation for letting her take her first step towards empowerment. ■

– SATYENDRA KUMAR SHUKLA,  
Gram Panchayat Samanvayak



Sandhya actively participating in SHIKSHA Kiran Classes and Activities

## Quiz

- When was the first education policy passed?**
  - 1986
  - 1992
  - 1968
  - 1967
- Who inaugurated the launch of SHIKSHA Kiran ?**
  - Yogi Aditya Nath
  - Dr. Dinesh Sharma
  - Shri Keshav Prasad Maurya
  - Dr. Satish Chandra Dwivedi
- How many schools are selected for implementation of SHIKSHA ICT Classrooms in Siddharth Nagar?**
  - 412
  - 300
  - 352
  - 360
- Which initiative launched by SHIKSHA relies on using Loudspeakers for reaching out to communities?**
  - SHIKSHA Kiran
  - SHIKSHA Elementary
  - SHIKSHA<sup>+</sup>
  - SHIKSHA Ki Goonj
- Induction training for teachers was conducted in which of the following districts in the month of February?**
  - Bahraich
  - Chitrakoot
  - Gonda
  - Siddharth Nagar

- Editorial Team Members can't participate.
- Responses after deadline will not be entertained.
- Send your answers to [editorial.shiksha@shivnadarfoundation.org](mailto:editorial.shiksha@shivnadarfoundation.org) by 1800 hours 7<sup>th</sup> September, 2021
- Participants can be declared winner maximum twice in a row.
- Results will be declared on 14<sup>th</sup> September, 2021.

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