

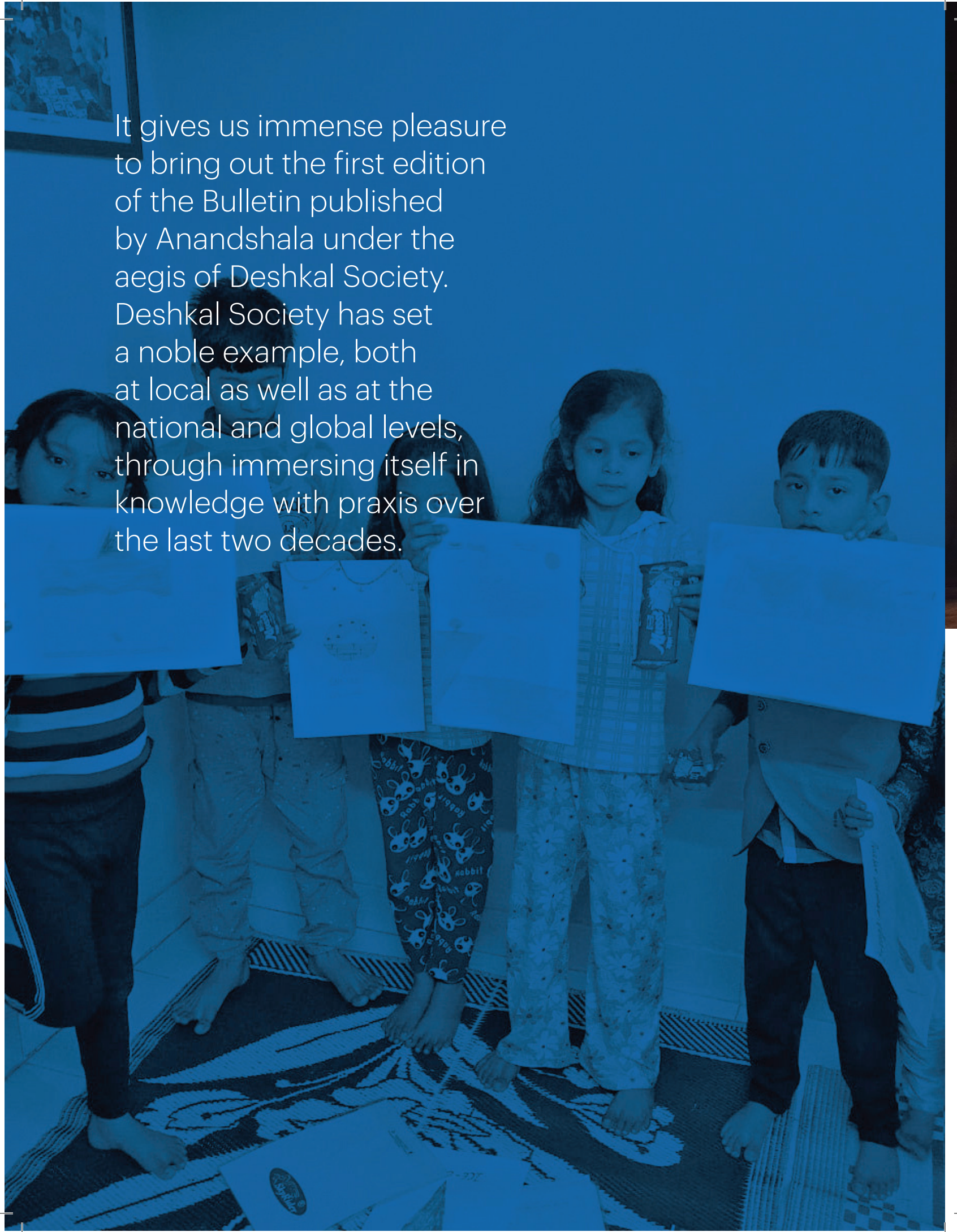
Anand shala

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 **DESHKAL SOCIETY**
Knowledge with Practice

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It gives us immense pleasure to bring out the first edition of the Bulletin published by Anandshala under the aegis of Deshkal Society. Deshkal Society has set a noble example, both at local as well as at the national and global levels, through immersing itself in knowledge with praxis over the last two decades.





Anandshala begins with Shweta Mukti

On 17 September 2023, Ms. Kavita Dwibedi offered a performance called 'Shweta Mukti', showcasing the life of the Buddha. Shweta Mukti is an intense search, a gripping journey into the compassionate world of womanhood. The purpose of this event was to introduce Anandshala – For joyful learnings and life skills, with Dr. Shekhar Dutt, Former Governor, Chhattisgarh; Dr. Mahesh Gupta, Hon'ble Chairman & Managing Director, KENT RO Systems Ltd.; Dr. D. M. Mulay, Hon'ble Member, National Human Rights Commission, New Delhi; Shri Ganga Kumar, Deputy Director, General Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers graced the occasion with their presence and reflective remarks.



Goal

To provide inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all in order to ensure Sustainable Development Goal 4.

Who we are?

Deshkal Society, potential key stakeholders and individual philanthropists to impart joyful learning and life skills to children belonging to less privileged backgrounds.

Why?

The parents of these children constitute a sizeable population of poor-income group and migrants who reside in urban villages. They are daily-wage labourers working in factories or doing low paid jobs in the service sector or they serve as domestic help in middle and upper-middle-class households. In a true sense, they constitute the bottom of the pyramid of the city.

Where?

In the first phase, we have started the Anandshala in the village of Gejha located in the city of Noida consisting of 1,050 households and plan to subsequently reach out to 10 Shramik Kunjs covering 11,000 households.



Anandshala: For joyful learnings and life skills

We are delighted to report that Deshkal Society successfully set up a community resource centre in Gejha village of Noida, Gautam Buddha Nagar District. Our team conducted a household survey, which provided valuable information about the socioeconomic and educational status of the households. The centre was established with the aim of providing quality learning and life skills to children from migrant families, helping them to overcome the challenges they faced due to their relocation.



Joyful learning through painting

On April 24th, 2024, Anandshala hosted a painting class as a creative activity for the children. The educators observed that each child showcased their unique creativity on the drawing sheets. Notably, Shri Brijendra S. Dua, Architect and Designer, Studio Earth, chose a painting by Raj Yadav, who hails from a family that migrated from Bundelkhand. The educators were delighted by the children's creative expressions and decided to make painting classes a regular Saturday activity. This initiative successfully dispelled the notion that only children from affluent backgrounds are capable of artistic pursuits. Dr. Ajay K. Chaubey, an educationist and Principal of Sarvodaya Bal Vidyalaya, Rouse Avenue, attended the event and engaged with the children. He pledged to recommend Anandshala's significance to the Department of Education, Government of NCT, at the policy level.



Building a strong foundation: The power of alphabet and number cards

At Anandshala, alphabet and number cards play a vital role in engaging children in the learning process and enhancing their learning outcomes. As a foundation for formal education, numeracy and literacy are crucial, and educators strive to make this process enjoyable for the children through innovative and accessible methods. The children at Anandshala come from first-generation migrant families, where parents may not be able to support their learning at home or afford expensive educational materials. To bridge this gap, the alphabet and number cards offer affordable and easily accessible learning resources, making joyful learning possible for these young learners.



Mothers at Anandshala

At Anandshala, mothers play a crucial role in the program's success, with their active participation in the management and learning process being essential for the program's smooth functioning. Regular fortnightly meetings between educators and mothers provide a platform for discussing children's progress, creative activities, and concerns. Mothers share their worries about how to motivate and inspire their children at home, and educators address these concerns by educating them on the importance of motivation in the learning process. The Anandshala team has observed that some parents tend to view their child's learning as an inherent ability rather than a result of a conducive environment, which can lead to negative attitudes towards their child's expressions. To combat this, educators not only update mothers on their child's progress but also empower them with knowledge on the significance of creating a supportive learning environment.

This collaborative approach is crucial, as research has shown that parents' attitudes can be a significant barrier to children's learning, especially when they fail to understand the context, concerns, and interests of their child's education. By involving mothers in the learning process, Anandshala aims to create a holistic ecosystem that nurtures children's multidimensional growth and development.



Group learnings empower children

At Anandshala, group learning is a cornerstone of our approach, providing a unique opportunity for children from low-income groups and migrant communities to grow and thrive together. Through this collaborative learning environment, children develop essential life skills such as teamwork, communication, and problem-solving, which are critical for their overall development. The diversity of the children's backgrounds creates an inclusive atmosphere that fosters mutual understanding, respect, and empathy.

Anandshala's innovative education model is designed to equip children with the skills and knowledge they need to succeed in life and make a positive impact in their communities. By bringing children together from diverse backgrounds, we create a sense of belonging and community, which is essential for building a strong foundation for their future.



An entrepreneur: A stand for digital classroom

We are delighted to acknowledge the contribution of Atulya Enterprises, a pioneering company founded by first-generation entrepreneur Shri Rajesh Mishra in Delhi, which has set up the smart board at Anandshala. This innovative educational initiative creatively blends numeracy, alphabets, art, and craft with digital learning, providing a unique learning experience for children from underprivileged backgrounds. Anandshala's pedagogy is built on the principles of contextual and participatory learning, focusing on developing the life skills of children.

This approach challenges the conventional notion that quality education is inaccessible to children from disadvantaged backgrounds. By incorporating joyful learning, digital technology, and global-local connections, Anandshala demonstrates that these children can thrive in an educational setting.

Mr. Mishra's commitment to philanthropy serves as a shining example for entrepreneurs to prioritize social responsibility as part of their business ethics. By integrating values and charity into their operations, entrepreneurs can make a significant positive impact on society, particularly benefiting women and children.



Inauguration of Apni Pathshala Pod at Anandshala

We were delighted to host the inauguration of Apni Pathshala Pod, a certificate course on computer training and skills, designed specifically for students from underprivileged backgrounds at Anandshala. Apni Pathshala was inaugurated by Shri Surender Malik, Joint Development Commissioner, Noida Special Economic Zone, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, GoI. In his inaugural address, Shri Malik emphasized the significance of this opportunity, urging the students to seize this chance and make the most of it. He encouraged them to adopt the values of hard work and sincerity, emphasizing that these are the keys to achieving success. He also extended an invitation to the students to visit the centre of excellence in NSEZ, providing them with a unique opportunity to learn from experts and gain hands-on experience. His inspiring words served as a catalyst for the students, motivating them to work diligently and make the most of their time at Apni Pathshala Pod.



Shri Arvind Mohan, Chairperson of Deshkal Society, and Shri Arjit Walia, Founder of Co-Scholastic Education, graced the occasion and shared their thoughtful remarks and words of encouragement.

Apni Pathshala Pod is a unique initiative that aims to bridge the digital divide among students from Grade 9 to 12 who are enrolled in government schools and inter-colleges. These students, hailing from less privileged backgrounds, often lack access to computers at home and have limited exposure to technology in their schools. Our program is designed to equip them with essential computer skills and knowledge, empowering them to navigate the digital world and compete effectively in the job market.

Apni Pathshala Pod:

Brief outline

Apni Pathshala caters students of Grade 9 to 12 enrolled in government schools and inter-colleges. This target group, hailing from less privileged backgrounds, lacks access to computers at home and limited exposure to technology at their schools. To bridge this gap, we plan to offer comprehensive computer learning skills including:

- [a] **Basic Computer and Typing Skills:** Enabling students to familiarize themselves with computer systems and essential operations.
- [b] **Microsoft Office Suite:** Training them in essential productivity tools like Word, Excel, and PowerPoint, which are widely used in professional settings (as shared in the below table).
- [c] **Canva for Social Media Poster Design:** Introducing them to digital design tools and equipping them with skills to create engaging content for social media platforms.
- [d] **Basic Web Designing:** Creating a visually appealing and user-friendly website using HTML, CSS, and JavaScript.

The proposed course duration is six months, and upon successful completion, students will receive certificates from Deshkal Society. This also presents an excellent opportunity for our trainees to access numerous job openings especially in the following areas:

S. NO	SECTOR	JOB ROLES
1	Retail	Sales Associate
2	Information Technology	IT Help Desk Assistant
3	Front Office Operations	Counter Sales Executive
4	Marketing	Marketing Executive
5	Health Care	General Duty Assistant
6	Insurance	Sales Executive (Insurance)
7	Typography & Computer Application	Executive Assistant
8	Office Procedures & Practices	Executive Assistant
9	Salesmanship	Sales Executive
10	BPO	Telecommunication



Common Service Centre: Janpahal in partnership with Deshkal Society at Anandshala

On April 28, 2024, Deshkal Society and Janpahal initiated the Common Service Centre, a pioneering initiative aimed at providing a wide range of essential services to the community. This collaborative effort seeks to address the pressing needs of citizens by offering a one-stop-shop for various government-sponsored programs and schemes. The Common Service Centre provides diverse services, including:

1. Aadhaar Card
2. PAN Card
3. Ayushman Bharat Scheme
4. Kisan Credit Card
5. Voter ID
6. P.D.C Service
7. Birth Certificate
8. Caste Certificate
9. Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana
10. Widow Pension



During the gathering of women of Shramik Kunj, Sector 93 at the occasion, Shri Dharmendra Kumar, Secretary, Janpahal, shared his insightful remarks, emphasizing the importance of understanding and utilizing the services offered by the Common Service Centre. He assured the beneficiaries that in the initial stages, the centre will provide Shramik Cards, issue Aadhar and PAN cards, and assist with address updates. Additionally, the centre will offer guidance and support to beneficiaries in submitting Online applications and facilitate the process seamlessly.

Furthermore, Shri Dharmendra Kumar highlighted that the centre will not only focus on providing documentation services but also serve as a hub connecting the ongoing activities of Deshkal at Anandshala with the Common Service Centre. This strategic partnership will enable a smooth flow of resources and expertise between both entities.

In his closing remarks, Shri Sanjay Kumar, Founder, Deshkal Society, emphasized that this centre will be a valuable asset not only for providing essential documentation services but also for fostering a link between the various activities undertaken by Deshkal at Anandshala and the Common Service Centre.

The meeting was organised by Shri Pankaj Bisht and Ms. Poonam from Janpahal, as well as Shri Sanjeev Kumar, Coordinator, Anandshala.



Guests at Anandshala: Celebrating the joy of learning and empowerment

- Shri Amrendra Kumar, General Manager & Whole Time Director, Winoa Abrasives India Private Limited and Shri R. V. Singh, Director, Planning Commission were delighted to interact with the children involved with Anandshala and commented that it was heartwarming to witness their active participation in such a meaningful initiative.



- Prof. Chaise LaDousa, Department of Anthropology and Education, Hamilton College, New York visited Anandshala, for Joyful Learnings and Life Skills of Children, on 30 June, 2024. We are glad to share his remarks on Anandshala: “It was a great pleasure to meet the children involved in Deshkal Society. The center’s work has brought them together for an art program”. Professor LaDousa was delighted by the children’s enthusiasm and brightness, saying it was “wonderful to see them participate in such an important development.”



- Dr. Ajay K. Chaubey, an educationist and Principal of Sarvodaya Bal Vidyalaya, Rouse Avenue, visited Anandshala, for Joyful Learnings and Life Skills of Children on 7th July, 2024. He interacted with the children and facilitators involved with Anandshala and discussed with Shri Sanjay Kumar, Founder, Deshkal Society to understand how this model could be replicated at other six Shramik Kunj based in Gautam Buddha Nagar, U.P.

Notably, Dr. Chaubey wrote about his observations from Anandshala's perspective: "I visited and interacted with the children, facilitators, and founder of Anandshala, an empowering and emancipatory learning space for migrant labourers subaltern groups. It is a pedagogic revolution in the context of issues and possibilities."



- Ms. Kavisha Sehgal, a student at Jakarta Inter-cultural School, Indonesia visited Anandshala, for Joyful Learnings and Life Skills of Children. She expressed her interest in joining the internship program at Deshkal to learn and engage with the children and community. With a keen interest in improving the English proficiency of children, particularly those from less privileged backgrounds, she began teaching and learning to improve the major barrier of English as a second language. As a student at Jakarta Inter-cultural School affiliated with the International Baccalaureate (IB Board), Kavisha has evolved herself in a multicultural and multilingual environment.

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