

# SAFARNAMA / सफरनामा

Updates from the Sambhaavnaa Institute Campus **July-August, 2015**

Dear friends,

We are very excited to start a monthly newsletter called *Sambhaavnaa ka Safarnama* – an update of all the ongoing and upcoming activities from the Sambhaavnaa campus. Read on to find out!

## FARM TO PLATE

The monsoons have finally decided to say goodbye and... Hello sun! We forgot that you were even there hiding behind the clouds! We had 1330 mm of rainfall this year. The rains may have been depressing for some of us, but good for our farm.

**Babli ji** says, “The rains were very good for the crops we planted this year and we had a lot of healthy produce this season.”



## PLANTATION THIS SEASON

90 + 150 trees have been planted, e.g., nimbu, santra, malta, litchi, etc.

More than 100 baas (bamboo) and over 70 flowering plants have also been planted.

Planning to begin for the upcoming season for new vegetables to be planted in 10-15 days, the farm team will inform everyone of the seeds and other requirements.

## Our farm team includes:

**Babli ji, Rakesh, Himanshu ji, Ram Singh ji, Kishan Singh ji, Mohammad, Sumant and Mansingh Ji**



The Kitchen Staff, **Swarna Ji, Jalam Singh Ji, Saroj Ji, and Mansingh Ji**, at Deer Park, Bir on a training programme to work on making the food tastier and healthier!

The farm team meets weekly at the Haiku shed. It has been proposed that anyone can join the farm team meetings on the condition that they get their hands into the soil to keep up with the Sambhaavnaa open culture and encourage *shram daan* on the farm. The farm produce will be divided equally amongst the volunteers, fellows, and staff.

### We had a good vegetable produce this year!

2 quintals bhindi, 25 kilo coriander, 10 kgs green leafy veggies, 3 quintals French beans. 50 kgs cucumbers and many others like Aubergines, Onions, Garlic, Turmeric, etc. Pears and Plums were harvested and the kitchen staff, with support from **Deepa and Himanshu ji**, made jam for the mess.

# संभावना कार्यक्रम

## UPCOMING PROGRAMS

### ▪ **TANA BANA: Crises and Challenges of Handlooms in India**

25<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> September

The workshop seeks to explore the politics and ecology of making textiles by hand from traditional, natural fibres, and the cultural complexes that sustain them in India today.

### ▪ **BUNIYAAD: A program for young social activists**

15<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> October

The program attempts to broaden the understanding of 'on the field' activists regarding big-picture issues in the social, economic, political spheres.

### ▪ **Diabetes and Thyroid Reversal Workshop (C-type workshop)**

26<sup>th</sup> October – 3<sup>rd</sup> November

This workshop is for people suffering from diabetes, thyroid, hypertension or obesity; food and health activists and enthusiasts as well as people who have these diseases in their family.

### ▪ **Lawyers retreat with Human Rights Law Network (HRLN) (C type workshop)**

7<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> November

Sambhaavnaa will be hosting this workshop for the HRLN Team.

### ▪ **Kali Writes: A writing workshop**

30<sup>th</sup> November – 6<sup>th</sup> December

The Kali Writes Project helps the individual explore catharsis, in one's own language of comfort and feeling.

### ▪ **The Politics of Energy in India (under discussion)**

3<sup>rd</sup> January (tentatively)

A workshop for activists, researchers and journalists to tune into the contemporary movements, debates and policy scenario in the field of 'energy' with a focus on issues of equity and ecological justice.

### ▪ **Nayi Dishayein, Rethinking development**

21<sup>st</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> December

A workshop for youth to look critically at issues of development through the lens of social, economic and political justice.

### ▪ **A workshop on Community Based Tourism (under discussion)**

Post 15<sup>th</sup> February, 2016

A workshop for those working on and starting livelihood initiatives around community and conservation based tourism in collaboration with an organisation called 'Equations'.

### ▪ **Nayi Dishayein: Pahad aur Hum**

Dates to be decided

### THE PROGRAM TEAM INCLUDES:

Manshi Asher  
Parul Sood  
Mohammad Chappalwala  
Himanshu Kumar  
Praveen Singh  
**Volunteer:** Aditi Padiyar

*In the period between 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015 and 15<sup>th</sup> July 2015, 13 programs were held on the campus. Before the campus closed for monsoon break, we wrapped up the Nayi Dishayein Summer School, a category C program for Dalit communities and also did a review of the Nayi Dishayein program series with Madhur Anand.*

*Himanshu ji, Manshi and Parul went to Delhi from 9<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> August 2015 and also held an outreach meeting and visits to organisations in Delhi.*

*Himanshu ji and Manshi also took sessions on "Citizenship" with youth from Kangra at a workshop organised by Jagori.*

# एक नयी उड़ान

At Udaan, the Pre-school, 11 children are seen tottering around in school uniforms. Following a debate on the pros and cons of 'uniformity', the needs of the parents, the cost and the fabric to be used, the children have a nice, casual tracksuit to put on every day. There is a proposal to go uniform-free on Fridays so that the children can choose their own dress. The focus remains on capacity building of facilitators. In September, a volunteer **Sheryl**, conducted a training for all the facilitators.



***Atul** has provided a wonderful design and outlay for the Jungle Gym and Gautam, with his support, has executed a part of it (due to lack of resources, it will be done in stages). Have a look!*



## FACILITATORS:

**Gautam Bharti** who is on a three month fellowship with Udaan is focused on Thematic Curriculum Building and Planning. Last month's theme was 'Water' and this month's theme is "Food". A series of creative indoor and outdoor activities have been carried out on these themes. Parent Teacher Meetings's have also become a regular feature now. **Vandana** and **Kalpana** both expressed their joy at spending time with the children. Vandana says, "I love working with young kids, we are trying to simplify things for them as we go, so learning is fun and they enjoy discovering new things at their pace."

## AT THE LEARNING CENTRE

The kids who visit the Learning Centre almost every day (almost 25 to 30 kids) have formed three interest groups – Music, Theatre and Art as well as Sports groups – which have become regular features at the Learning Centre in the evenings. A sports day was also organised on 26<sup>th</sup> August by the Sports Club.

The music club led by 2-3 children who play instruments has been picking up and they are building their own instruments and meeting regularly for jamming sessions, hosting musical evenings too. The Art and Craft group is being led by **Fatima** who teaches crotchet and 'Best out of Waste' to the children, especially young girls. We had with us a volunteer for one month, **Anju**, who did English lessons with the facilitators. **Kavita**, the Learning Centre facilitator, says, "Anju didi not only taught us English but a little bit of French too, it was a wonderful experience! We learnt a lot of new Yoga techniques from her". **Leela**, Gautam's partner has also been giving her time to Udaan.

# “गपशप चबूतरा”

In August, we welcomed **Mohammad and Fatima with Qasim**, their 4-year-old son, on the campus. Mohammad is on a 3 month fellowship and has brought new and positive energy on campus, taking lead in streamlining work in the Programs Team as well as volunteering with farming and other hands-on work around.

So now the kitchenette and hostel are a lively space with cooking and eating. We do Sunday pot lucks sometimes which anyone can join in... with their khaana-peena!

**Shubham**, a young man from Kandwari, is volunteering with us on village outreach. His first endeavour is to talk to weavers in the village who run handlooms and document their work as well as invite them to participate in our upcoming program, Tana Bana.

**Srikant Chaudhary**, our media fellow for 3 months, produced a film with Himanshu ji on the Kuhl system in Kandwari. He also helped with drafting the reports of the previous programs online. He has since moved on. Many thanks to **Atul** for helping with visualising the problems with the website as well as helping us design a new one.

We have a volunteer from Mumbai for 2 months – **Aditi Padiyar**. Aditi is contributing beautifully to the work of the programs team with her co-ordination, web use as well as language and editing skills.

**Archana Saraf**, the volunteer coordinator, has been helping with selecting volunteers that match Sambhaavnaa's requirements.

**Parul Sood**, our new Programs Manager joined on a three month fellowship. A young and enthusiastic person, Parul has quickly integrated with the campus culture. He says, “Sambhaavnaa, staying true to its name, has shown me the possibility of a new and better space, resonating with the values I seek to achieve in my life as well.”

*Here are some issues and questions that we are discussing on campus these days:*

- What kind of volunteers should we invite to Sambhaavnaa?
- Whether staff and volunteers should pay for Sabji, grass... can't these be perks?
- How do we behave with one another? How do we create a culture of equality on the campus?
- How do we solve conflicts? Can we first try one on one, followed by arbitration and then taking matters to the EC.
- How can we bring more positivity to campus?

## CONSTRUCTION OF FACULTY HOUSE

The masonry and work at the Faculty house continue. Indoor work — flooring, walls plaster, plumbing and electricity — are ongoing. The construction is scheduled to be completed by Diwali.

## हिसाब किताब (Budget for the year)

1 <sup>st</sup> July to 31 <sup>st</sup> August 2015	Programs	Admin	Udaan	Dairy farm	Construction	Repair & maintenance	Fixed Assets	Total
<b>Receipts</b>								
	1,07,995	939	20,900	6,310	-	-	-	1,36,144
<b>Expenses</b>								
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,53,550</b>	<b>57,745</b>	<b>1,19,417</b>	<b>42,900</b>	<b>5,83,714</b>	<b>53,241</b>	<b>2,17,690</b>	<b>14,28,257</b>