



Asha

for Education

Bringing hope through education

Fellowship Ashis Panda Updates (Year 2)
April 2025 to May 2026

Annual Review for 2025-26 and
Budget Proposal for 2026-27 (Year 3/X)

Asha Austin

May 11, 2026 and May 27, 2026

Fellowship Updates (Annual Report - 2025-26)

High-Level

- ❑ Building Native Seed Conservation and agrobiodiversity networks in India ([More information](#))
- ❑ Conducted a course on Agroecology for 25 participants from across India, in partnership with Welthungerhilfe and other partners from across India ([More information](#))
- ❑ Supported the Rajasthan Natural Farming Coalition in organising online workshops on marketing of organic/naturally-grown foods for members from the National Coalition for Natural Farming (<https://nfcoalition.in/>)
- ❑ Supported Sambhaav - building surface water based agricultural and ground water systems for SC/STs in Barmer and Jaisalmer districts, documentation of indigenous knowledge systems in Jaisalmer and Beri districts, transitioning 400 farmers to agroecology in Alwar and Jaisalmer districts

❑ [Photos](#)

FCRA Compliance

- ❑ Yes, valid till Jan 04, 2028
- ❑ Valid 80G/FCRA registrations

Site Visit Compliance

- ❑ In-person site visit from Padmanava Sen for background
 - ❑ Ashis Panda Fellowship (17-18 January 2017)
- ❑ Call with Project Partner on May 23, 2023
 - ❑ Attendees: Ashis (Sambhaav), Gaurav, Mohit, Ranga, Shruti, Subra
 - ❑ Total Time: 90 min
- ❑ In-person site visit by Amit Sharma, July 4, 2023 to Renwal Manji
 - ❑ Valid till July 3, 2025
 - ❑ Spent 5 hours
 - ❑ Visited 2 schools - Heerapura, Raithal and 1 village - Gulabpura
- ❑ In-person site visit by Amit Sharma on July 9, 2025
 - ❑ 1 day visit to Alwar region and schools



Chapter - Fellow Engagements

- ❑ In-person talk by Ashis at UT Austin in Austin (2024)
 - ❑ May 19, 2024 at UT from 4:30 to 6:30 pm
 - ❑ Asha volunteers who attended: Alisha, Ankita, Gaurav, Mohit, Raghu, Ranga, Sowmya, Subra

- ❑ Chapter Virtual Visit (2025)
 - ❑ June 9, 2025 from 9 to 10:30 pm Austin
 - ❑ Asha volunteers who attended: Ananya, Kaavya, Mohit, Ranga, Shruti, Sowmya, Subhangi, Subra
 - ❑ Overview of Sambhaav Program for 2024-25 and overview of Fellowship efforts for 2024-25

- ❑ Chapter Virtual Visit (2026)
 - ❑ May 11, 2026 from 8:30 to 9:30 pm Austin
 - ❑ Asha volunteers who attended: Ankita, Kaavya, Ranga, Sowmya, Susmit
 - ❑ Overview of Sambhaav Program for 2025-26 and overview of Fellowship efforts for 2025-26

Funds Utilization for 2025-26

<u>ASHA for Education - Ashis Panda Fellowship</u>			
2025-26			
Opening Balance	7,037.00	as on 01/04/25	
Grant Received	4,80,000.00		
Bank Interest received	3,878.00		
Total available balance	4,90,915.00		
Utilization/ Expenses	4,80,000.00		
Closing Balance	10,915.00	as on 31/03/26	

Budget Proposal for 2026-27

- Honorarium for Fellowship at INR 44K p.m. for INR 5.28L (~5.6k USD) for 2026-27

Chapter Vote

- ☐ Support for INR 5.28 lacs for the period from April 2026 to March 2027 for Fellowship Ashis Panda
 - ☐ Yes - 7 (Subra, Ankita, Susmit, Ranga, Kaavya, Mohit, Shruti)
 - ☐ No - 0
 - ☐ Abstain - 0

Chapter Checklist

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7
FCRA Validity	Y	Y	Y				
Budget and Proposal	Y	Y	Y				
Annual Report	Y	Y	Y				
Site Visits	Y	Y	Y				



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Sambhaav Trust

Ecological Restoration and Education in Schools

**Annual Review for 2025-26 and
Budget Proposal for 2026-27 (Year 4/7)**

Asha Austin

May 11 and 27, 2026



downtoearth.org.in

2013

This dry and dusty piece of 500-acres of land on the outskirts of Jaipur

2021

Overview

□ High-level

- Focus area - Ecological Restoration and Water

- Geographical area

 - On-ground work - Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Uttarakhand and Bihar

 - Outreach - Punjab, Karnataka, Haryana, Delhi, Maharashtra, Goa, Jharkhand and West Bengal

- NGO inception, history

 - Started in 1999 and focused on Water, land and natural resource management systems

 - On-ground work benefited 75,000 families in about 400 villages

 - 4500+ water, land and natural resource management systems over the last 10 years

- Asha engagement start (Link to [New Project Introduction](#))

 - Austin engagement start - 2023

 - [Projects Page](#) - New project

- Annual Reports

 - [2024-25](#)

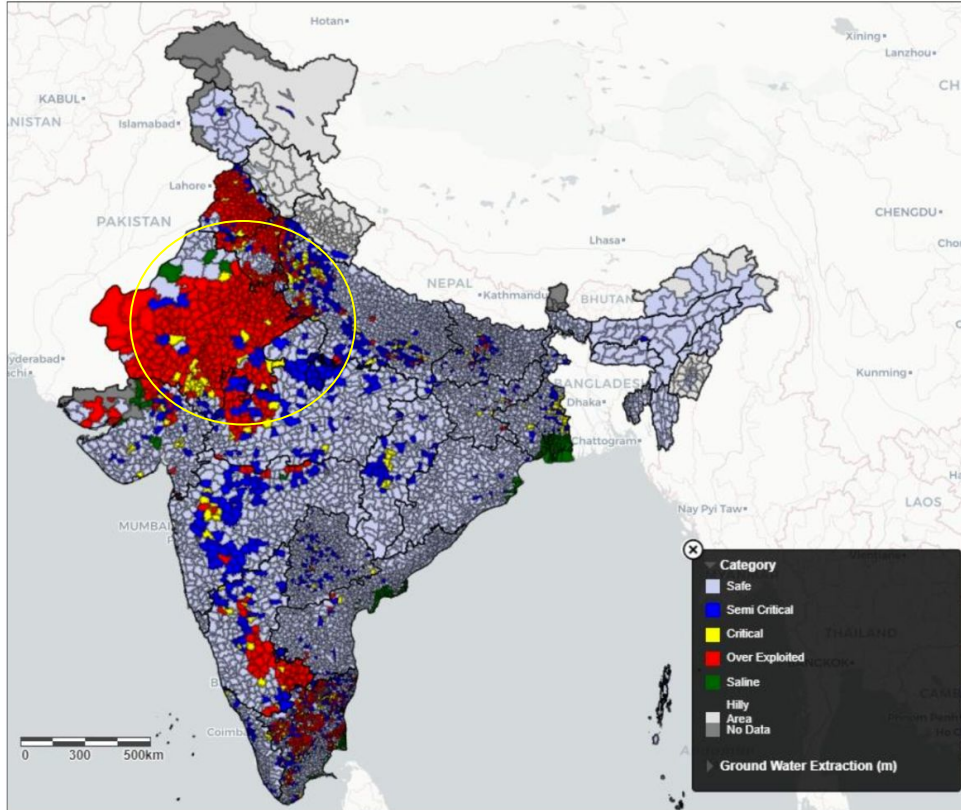
 - [2023-24](#)

Mission and Vision

- ❑ Mission of the Project Partner - Sustainable Development of Urban & rural Human and Natural Resources with long-term objective of bringing about change - physical, social and attitudinal
 - ❑ [Ted Talk](#) by Founder Mr. Farhad Contractor
 - ❑ [Every Drop Counts](#) - Stories of change - Satyamev Jayate
 - ❑ [Photos](#)

- ❑ Vision over the next 5 years
 - ❑ Conserving and restoring land, water and natural resources
 - ❑ Strengthening livelihoods of farmers and pastoralists
 - ❑ Improving access to quality water, food as well as income
 - ❑ Building local governance systems and community-level leadership
 - ❑ [Ecological Restoration and Education with Schools in Central and Eastern Rajasthan - NEW](#)

Groundwater Status across India



Central and Eastern Rajasthan

- Very poor groundwater quality and its ground water sources are overexploited
- Children in most schools today are dependent on groundwater for drinking

Over-exploited regions of Rajasthan

- Acute water scarcity
- Rural is heavily under served
- Water storage systems in schools defunct

Ecological Restoration and Education in Schools

- ❑ Based on on-ground and outreach work focussed on ecological restoration in 80 villages in Central and Eastern Rajasthan
 - ❑ Social capital, trust and goodwill a key component for reach and selection of participant schools
 - ❑ Community involvement and subsequent takeover for maintenance and well-being an essential part of the approach
- ❑ [Proposal to work with students and schools in the districts of Alwar, Dausa, Bharatpur, Jaipur, Tonk and Ajmer](#)
- ❑ Part 1 - Environmental Sustainability Education in Rural Government Schools
 - ❑ Learning and teaching around water and food systems
 - ❑ 20 secondary schools (6th and above) and senior secondary schools (9th and above) each year
 - ❑ 4000+ children benefited per year at ~ 200 children/school/year
 - ❑ 20% contribution from the school and community
- ❑ Part 2 - Ecological Restoration in Rural Government Schools
 - ❑ On-ground work to resolve water and nutrition scarcity and quality issues - students from Part 1 part of the effort
 - ❑ At least 10 secondary (6th and above) and senior secondary schools (9th and above) each year
 - ❑ 2000+ children benefited per year at ~ 200 children/school/year
 - ❑ 20% contribution from the school and community

Part 1 - Environmental Sustainability Education

- ❑ Activity and discussion based sessions with children and teachers
 - ❑ 2 main sessions, 2 follow up sessions per school
- ❑ Group-based study projects contextualized to the children's neighborhood/village
- ❑ Exposure visits to sustainable ecological restoration
 - ❑ Water and food systems work done by Sambhaav
- ❑ Modules will be developed in the local language (Hindi) to two levels
 - ❑ 6th and above, 9th and above
 - ❑ [Example modules](#)

Part 2 - Ecological Restoration

- ❑ On-ground work to resolve water and nutrition scarcity and quality issues
 - ❑ Rooftop rainwater-based recharge of groundwater sources *within* the school - borewells and handpumps
 - ❑ Repair of rainwater harvesting systems setup in some schools by the Public Health and Education Department, which are mostly defunct now
 - ❑ Setup of biodiverse-nutrition gardens (wherever water and land is available) that can provide fresh fruits and vegetables that can contribute to the mid-day meals of children
 - ❑ Recycling of greywater for reuse in the nutrition gardens
- ❑ All on-ground interventions are low in capital investment - low-cost, low-maintenance, sustainable solutions
 - ❑ Will build on existing physical assets and natural resources within the school
 - ❑ Will contribute to practice based education about ecological restoration

Project Updates

Research and Analysis

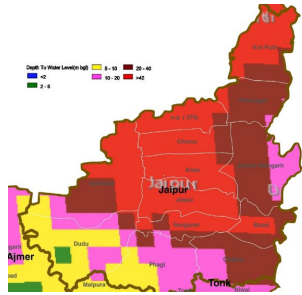
- ❑ Sambhaav used secondary data from Bhuvan's WRIS and GWIS
 - ❑ First understand the groundwater situation at a block level
 - ❑ Results verified and corroborated against the actual situation at a block level
- ❑ Results of the analysis

Outcome

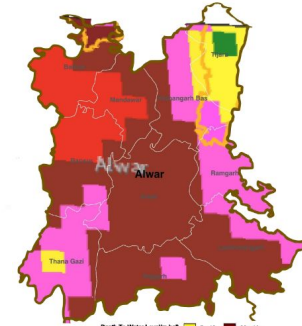
- ❑ Sambhaav zeroed in on the following blocks to start work in Year 1
 - ❑ Dausa, Rajgarh and Baswa blocks in Alwar and Dausa districts
 - ❑ Phulera, Mozmadabad and Dud blocks in Jaipur district
- ❑ Urban blocks of Jaipur district were not shortlisted as the focus of the programme is rural schools
 - ❑ Difficult to mobilize community contributions for the on-ground work in urban areas

Sambhaav - Research and Analysis

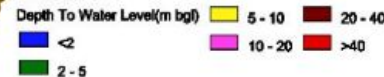
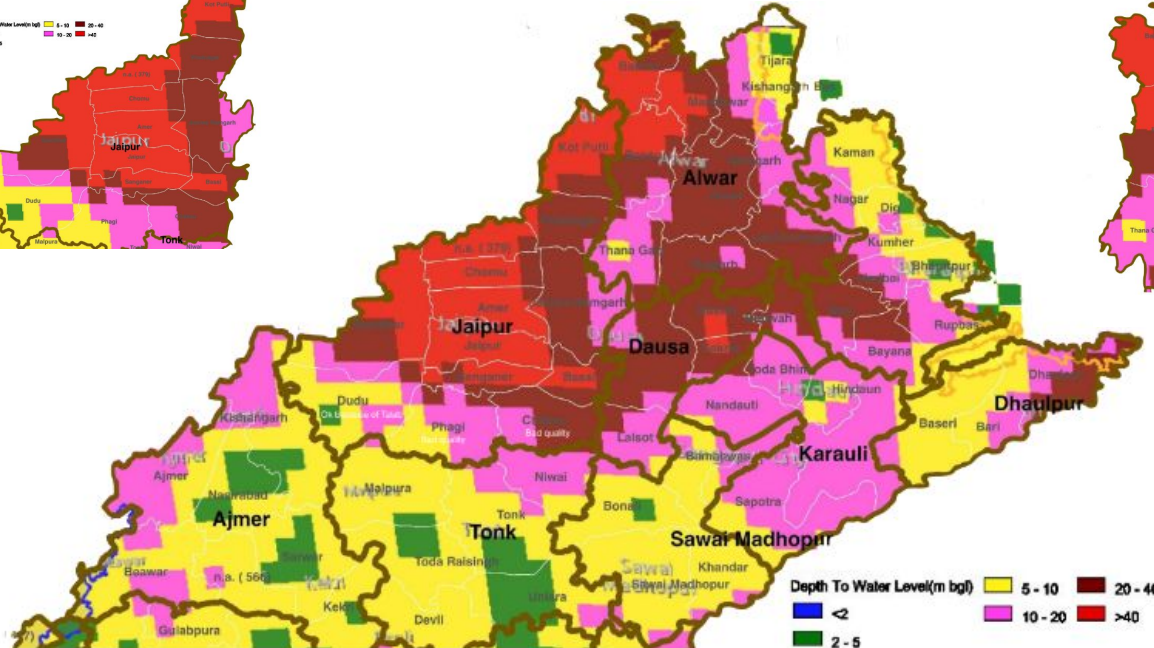
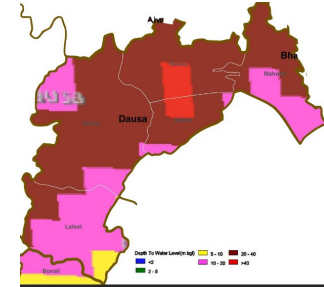
Jaipur



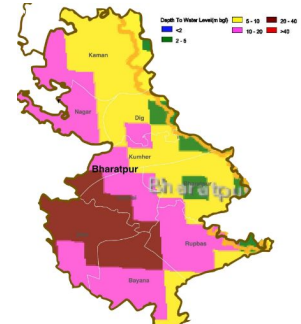
Alwar



Dausa



Bharatpur



Project Updates

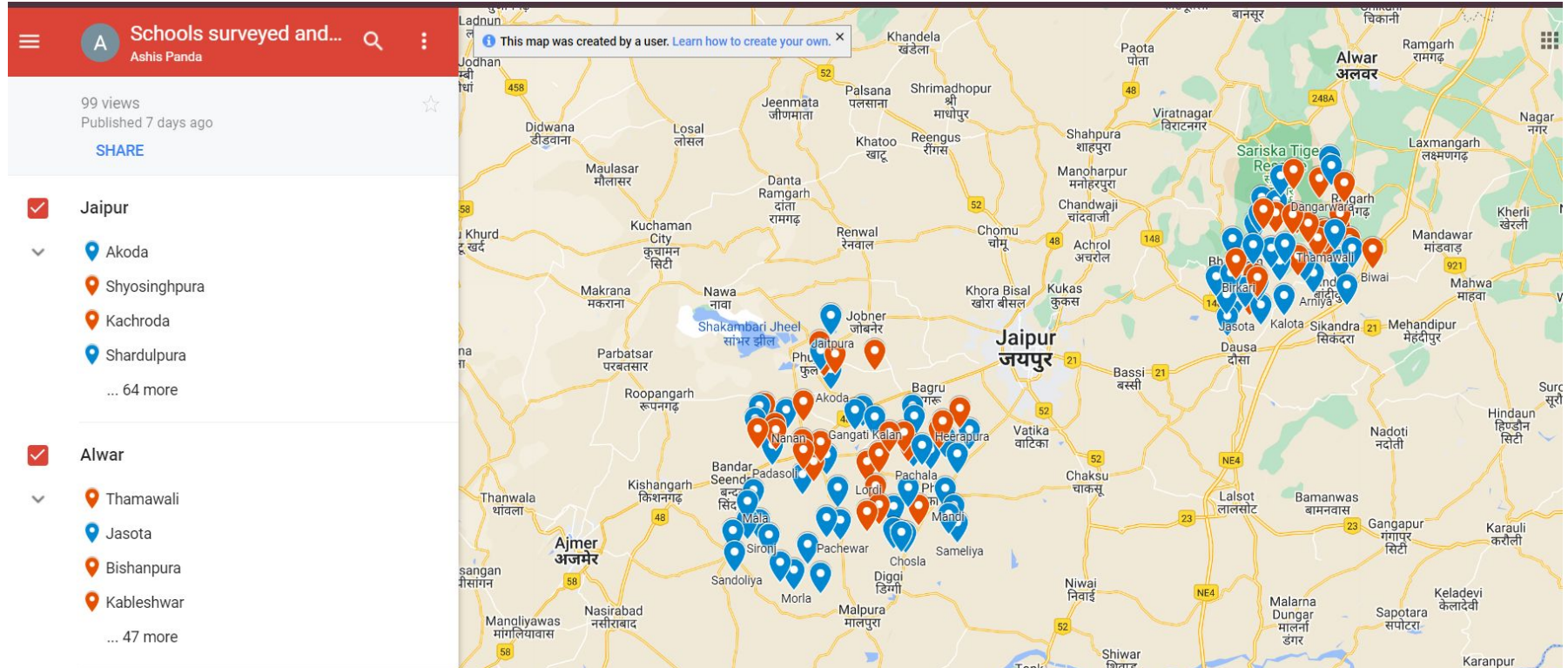
On-Ground Survey

- ❑ Sambhaav then undertook a detailed on-ground survey of the schools in the short-listed blocks
 - ❑ Verify the on-ground situation as regards water for drinking for the students
 - ❑ Initiated discussions with the schools - principals, teachers and parents
 - ❑ Understand which of the affected schools were interested to participate in the awareness and on-ground work
- ❑ Sambhaav visited a total of 116 schools in Jaipur, Dausa, Alwar and a few in Tonk and Ajmer districts

Short-listed Schools (first round)

- ❑ Based on the ground situation in terms of most dire need for drinking water and willingness of schools to participate
 - ❑ 25 schools in Dausa, Rajgarh and Baswa blocks in Alwar and Dausa districts
 - ❑ 24 schools in Phulera, Mozmadabad and Dud blocks in Jaipur district
- ❑ Sambhaav to engage with about 10-15 schools for education/ awareness work in each region (Jaipur and Alwar/Dausa)
- ❑ Sambhaav to engage with about 5-10 schools for on-ground work with the schools (Jaipur and Alwar/Dausa)

Sambhaav - School Survey/ Engagement



Project Updates

Short-listed Exposure Visit locations

- ❑ Jaipur Schools
 - ❑ Central Sheep and Wool Research Institute - native species of livestock suited to Aravalis, Thar desert, seeds/information on native fodder grasses, shrubs and trees
 - ❑ Tordi Sagar Bandh, Tonk - Traditional large-scale water harvesting and storage system
 - ❑ Palwas (Jain), Avana (Gurjar), Organic farms in Bichoon area, rainwater harvesting through tankas
 - ❑ Bhairana (Sacred grove), Dadu Paal ki Mandir - part of larger piece of land developed by the Forest Department and local communities, native forests, rainwater harvesting through check dams and tankas
 - ❑ Pahadiya (Sacred grove), Mataji ka Mandir, Pasture land development by the Panchayat, Forest development work by the Department and local communities, Rainwater harvesting through check dams, anicuts and ponds
 - ❑ Heerapura, Phagi - Pasture land development work done by the Panchayat
 - ❑ Chhaparwada Bandh, Dudu - Traditional water harvesting and storage system (large-scale)
 - ❑ Dhandholi, Itakhai, Mozmabad - Pasture land development work done by the Panchayats
- ❑ Exposure visits will be organized based on routes/locations most proximate to each set of schools in an area

Project Updates

Short-listed Exposure Visit locations

- ❑ Alwar, Dausa schools
 - ❑ Medicinal/ herbal park Dhiroda (Gola Ka Bas)
 - ❑ Nanduwali water revival - Jahaz
 - ❑ Water conservation and pasture land development - Losal Brahmanan
 - ❑ Devbani (Sacred grove) at Tilwad
 - ❑ Johad (pond) at Rampura
 - ❑ Devani (Sacred grove) at Baansrol
 - ❑ Chaubey Organic Farm at Ghevar
 - ❑ Tiwari Organic Farm at Garh Binjari
- ❑ Exposure visits will be organized based on routes/locations most proximate to each set of schools in an area



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Updates
April 2025 to Mar 2026



Project Updates (Work Report Updates)

Background

- ❑ New Project approved in mid-August 2023
 - ❑ Funding for Year 1 from July 2023 to March 2024 for 14 schools (restoration), 21 schools (education)
 - ❑ Funding for Year 2 from April 2024 to March 2025 for 26 new schools (restoration), 20 schools (education)
 - ❑ Funding for Year 3 from April 2025 to March 2026 for 34 new schools (restoration), 22 schools (education)
- ❑ Sambhaav started work on the ground from September 2023

Team Building

- ❑ Onboarded 2 team members who agreed to work on this programme on a long-term basis
 - ❑ Manish Sharma (from Sakat, Rajgarh, Alwar)
 - ❑ Dhannaram Jat (from Savli, Dudu, Jaipur)
- ❑ Guided by senior Sambhaav team members, Chhagan Gurjar (Jaipur) and Kunjbhari Sharma (Alwar)
- ❑ Inducted into the work and the region and overall theme through exposure to past work done by Sambhaav

Project Updates (Work Report - 2025-26)

Summary

- ❑ Ecological Education and Restoration work done in 34 schools in Jaipur, Alwar and Dausa districts [Photos](#)
- ❑ Regular follow up meetings in all 34 schools, before, during and after the activities were conducted

Impact

- ❑ Education and On-ground work done in a total of 34 schools in Central and Eastern Rajasthan, benefiting a total of 5986 school children and 411 school staff
- ❑ 1209 children, 156 teachers and 77 parents - total 1442 people participated in 20 exposure visits covering 22 schools
- ❑ Through on-ground work within the premises of 16 schools, a total of 12.82 lakh litres of rainwater stored, on-ground recharge work in 9 schools with 9.95 lakh litres recharged into the ground.
 - ❑ Meets 100% of drinking water of the schools
- ❑ 7 schools met their fruit and vegetable needs through the school midday meals, for 2-3 months of the year in winter, through the new Kitchen gardens setup.
 - ❑ Trees were planted in 11 schools



**Field Exposure Visits as part of Ecological Education
Component of Sambhaav's Programme**





Sambhaav's Ecological Restoration Effort at Jaysinghpura - Baswa

FCRA Compliance

- ❑ Yes, valid till Jan 04, 2028
- ❑ Valid 80G/FCRA registrations

Site Visit Compliance

- ❑ In-person site visit from Padmanava Sen for background
 - ❑ Ashis Panda Fellowship (17-18 January 2017)
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In-person talk by Ashis Panda in Austin

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- Asha volunteers who attended: Alisha, Ankita, Gaurav, Mohit, Raghu, Ranga, Sowmya, Subra

Financial Health

- ❑ Audit Reports ([2024-25](#)) ([2023-24](#)) ([2022-23](#)) ([2021-22](#)), ([2020-21](#)), ([2019-20](#))
 - ❑ Quarterly audits being done by Sambhaav
 - ❑ 2025-26 awaited in September 2026 timeframe

- ❑ Corpus of ~ 1 CR
 - ❑ Interest income only for program expenses of Sambhaav Trust

- ❑ Pilot program with 20% from schools/villages and 80% from Asha
 - ❑ 20 schools/year for Part 1 - sustainability education
 - ❑ 10 schools/year for Part 2 - ecological restoration

- ❑ Team confident to bring in CSR in the next 3-7 years after critical mass is reached in terms of impact/schools

2024-25 Funding Partners

- ❑ Total Opex at 91L for 2024-25
 - ❑ American Jewish World Service
 - ❑ Arghyam Corpus Funds
 - ❑ Asha for Education - 20% of Sambhaav, 85% of New Project
 - ❑ British Museum
 - ❑ New Zealand Mission Fund

- ❑ Team confident to bring in CSR in the next 3-7 years after critical mass is reached in terms of impact/schools

- ❑ Past Funding Partners
 - ❑ Misereor
 - ❑ Reliance Foundation
 - ❑ Tata Trusts

Planned Sources of Funding

- ❑ New Pilot Program
 - ❑ 80% from Asha
 - ❑ 20% from local community

Funds Utilization for 2025-26

- ❑ **Year 3 Schools**
- ❑ **No unutilized funds for 2025-26**
 - ❑ Based on actual repairs needed after observation of work completed in the preceding year

Budget Proposal for 2026-27

- ❑ **Total Proposal for INR 27.16 lacs INR (7.5% higher than 2025-26 at 24.96 lacs INR)**
 - ❑ **Program Implementation at INR 17 lacs**
 - ❑ Part 1 - Sustainability Education at INR 5 lacs, 20 schools
 - ❑ Part 2 - Ecological Restoration at INR 12 lacs, 10+ schools (based on 50k-1 lac actuals/ school)
 - ❑ 75% Asha, 25% community
 - ❑ **Program Coordination at INR 8.16 lacs**
 - ❑ 1 program coordinator for Central and Eastern Rajasthan at 20k INR/month
 - ❑ Two program officers for Central and Eastern Rajasthan at 15k INR/month each
 - ❑ Travel of 6k INR/month for above 3 programme personnel
 - ❑ **Program Administration at INR 2 lacs**
- ❑ **Total Budget for 2026-27: INR 27.16 lacs or 28600 USD at 95 INR/USD**

Budget Proposal for 2026-27

Sambhaav Trust - Annual Budget for 2026-27					
Sl No	Description	Breakup	Year 3 Budget Apr 2025 - Mar 2026	Year 4 Budget Apr 2026 - Mar 2027	Category %
1	Programme Implementation		1,617,875	1,700,000	63%
1.1	Environmental sustainability education work in Schools	Rs. 25000 / school * 20 schools per year	462250	500000	This includes: cost of refreshments and stationery during classroom sessions & travel and refreshments during outdoor projects and exposure visits. Exposure visits and outdoor projects will be done in about 10 schools, and Ecological education modules will be implemented in about 10 schools.
1.2	On-ground ecological restoration work in Schools	Rs. 120000 / school * 10 schools per year	1155625	1200000	This includes: cost of repair of rainwater harvesting or greywater recycling systems including repair of rainwater or greywater conveyance systems, filters and storage tanks & Open-pollinated seeds and saplings of vegetables and fruits, tank silt and compost for setting up biodiverse-nutrition gardens. This excludes 25% contribution from participant schools.
2	Programme Coordination		762,713	816,000	30%
2.1	Programme Travel	Rs. 18000 / month * 12 months per year	208013	216000	Rs. 6000/month * 3 Programme Team members - 1 Programme Coordinator and 2 Programme Officers
2.2	Programme Team Remuneration	Rs. 50000 / month * 12 months per year	554700	600000	This includes full-time honorarium of 1 Programme Coordinators Dhannaram Jat at Rs. 20000/month and 2 Programme Officers at Rs. 15000/month, for Eastern and Central Rajasthan.
3	Programme Administration		115,563	200,000	7%
3.1	Programme Administration	Part contribution towards Sambhaav's organisational overheads that help to administer the programme such as Office assistant, Office accountant, Postage and station, Electricity and Telephone, Audit fees, Municipal taxes, Charity Commissioner fees etc.	115563	200000	
Total Budget (Rs.)			2,496,150	2,716,000	100%
		Rs. per child cost	624	543	
		Total children benefited	4000	5000	About 60 children per school * 10 schools will benefit in Exposure visits/Outdoor projects, 240 children per school * 10 schools will benefit through Ecological Education modules and about 200 children per school * 10 schools through on-ground work.

Total Budget for 2026-27:
INR 27.16 Lacs at 28.6k USD
(95 INR/USD)

Austin supported 24.96 lacs at 29k
USD for 2025-26
(85 INR/USD)

This is for Year 4 schools only

of schools engaged for restoration
depends on community involvement
and budgets for each school based
on actual intervention needed; Year 3
had 34 schools for restoration

Average of 75,000 INR as restoration
cost/school

Average of 20,000 INR as restoration
cost/school

Avg. restoration cost/ school
Avg. education cost/ school

75000 INR
20000 INR

Sambhaav at 75%, School and community at 25%

of schools engaged for restoration depending on community involvement and budgets for each school based on actual intervention needed

Chapter Vote

- ☐ Support for INR 27.16 lacs for the period from April 2026 to March 2027 (approx. 29k USD) for Sambhaav's ecological education and restoration in rural government schools.
 - ☐ Yes - 7 (Subra, Ankita, Susmit, Ranga, Kaavya, Mohit, Shruti)
 - ☐ No - 0
 - ☐ Abstain - 0

- ☐ Does the chapter approve disbursement of INR 27.16 lacs towards Sambhaav Trust for April 2026 to March 2027.
 - ☐ Yes - 7 (Subra, Ankita, Susmit, Ranga, Kaavya, Mohit, Shruti)
 - ☐ No - 0
 - ☐ Abstain - 0

Summary

- ❑ New incubation project by Sambhaav to work with highly vulnerable schools
- ❑ Two components of ecological education and restoration
- ❑ Benefits 20+ government schools and 4000+ children and families each year

Chapter Checklist

If all goes well in the 1st year, expected to go through normal projects funding cycle of 7 years subject to Projects Model

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7
FCRA Validity	Y	Y	Y	Y			
Budget and Proposal	Y	Y	Y	Y			
Annual Report	Y	Y	Y	Y			
Audit Report	Y	Y	Y				
Beneficiaries and Staff List	Y	Y	Y	Y			
Site Visits	Y	Y	Y	Y			
Financial Analysis	Y	Y	Y				
Funding Partners	Y	Y	Y	Y			
Corpus Fund Initiatives	Y	Y	Y	Y			
% OPEX (Program)	85%	85%					
% OPEX (Total)	20%	24%					
WCR	0.1						

References on Water Conservation

- ❑ [TED Talk](#) by Anupam Mishra - The ancient ingenuity of water harvesting
- ❑ Rajasthan ki Rajat Boondein ([Book](#) by Anupam Mishra)

- ❑ [Anupam Mishra](#), Chairperson and Trustee, Sambhaav from 2004 till he passed away in 2016.



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Thank You
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