

## **PROFILES OF SOME OF THE TOP SCHOOLS**

### **Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya, Ongole, Andhra Pradesh**

This residential school is affiliated to the Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti, an autonomous Central government-funded school chain. Located on the coast of south Andhra Pradesh, it had almost been washed away by the Cyclone Laila in October 2010. The undaunted residents not only rebuilt the school, but also managed to complete the audit on time.

The strength of this school is its extremely spirited and proactive community. Every single resident here is engaged in collecting and reusing solid waste, recycling waste water and saving energy. The school, in fact, does not limit its work within its premises. Every weekend a JNV team visits government schools in the neighbourhood to share ideas and organise environment-related activities. It frequently holds camps within its campus and invites the neighbours to join in.

The local government agency now uses it as a showcase model, and often brings environment teacher trainees to the JNV campus for 'site visits'.

### **Salwan Public School, Old Rajinder Nagar, Delhi**

"The GSP audit has given me and my students an identity," says Rekha Lalla, the environment coordinator, who has led the school's audit teams ever since 2006. In the course of these five years, her school has literally reinvented itself environmentally. Here are some examples.

- In 2006, it had a rainwater harvesting structure. But it was just a showcase model which had no practical purpose. In 2011, Salwan has invested in capturing rain run-off from its entire campus and taps 80 per cent of its full potential.
- In 2006, it was composting waste and recycling paper -- but again, as an eco-club activity, without being aware of how much and what kind of waste was being generated. In 2011, it has declared itself as a zero waste zone. It monitors its wastes daily, and recycles 100 per cent of all categories generated.
- In 2006, commuting practices of its community was like any other Delhi school, heavily loaded in favour of private – and polluting -- vehicles. But in the past five years, it has reversed the trend. Today, 59 per cent take public/school transport; 40.93 walk or cycle to school, and only 0.32 per cent take private vehicles.

Interestingly, the Salwan community now is an active partner of the local residents welfare association, sharing ideas, holding joint activities, lobbying with the local MLA for preservation of parks and the Ridge.

### **Kendriya Vidyalaya, Uppal, Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh**

A first time participant in the Green Schools Programme, this school emerges as an all-rounder. It reuses 90 per cent of its wastewater in gardening, and its sanitation infrastructure passes the benchmark set by the Bureau of Indian Standards -- a rare feat among government schools. It also reuses and recycles 100 per cent of the waste generated within its campus. Another commendable feature is that in spite of being an urban school, its commuting practices primarily favour public transport, walking or cycling. This reflects in its energy audit -- petrol accounts for only 1 per cent of its total energy use.

This KV believes in sharing its ideas with its neighbours. It involves the local community in every task it undertakes and has managed to develop a very popular base in the region.

**Government Senior Secondary School, Makredi, Himachal Pradesh**

Another 'new' entrant, this school shines for its remarkably well-balanced water management practices. It is among the very few government schools which provide adequate per capita water supply to its students and staff. It also meets all sanitation practice benchmarks. Its other outstanding feature: 63 per cent of its total energy use is from renewable sources. The school sustains a flourishing biodiversity within its campus by using only bio-pesticides.

**St George's School, Alaknanda**

Like Salwan, this school has redefined itself drastically, investing in setting up green infrastructure and adopting green practices. Interestingly, it has made the CSE school programme a part of its curriculum. While most Delhi schools have been floundering to find a suitable tool to conduct the latest Continuous and Comprehensive Evaluation process, teachers here are using GSP to do it. This has ensured complete and total involvement of every teacher in the audit process, with every student being a part of the GSP network.

St George's is now increasing its sphere of influence to its parents and the neighbourhood -- students are now conducting audits at home and in local markets as assignments.

**Best Air Manager:** Sarvodaya Government Senior Secondary School, Soami Nagar is a neighbourhood school where 92.96 per cent of the students and staff walk or cycle to and from school!

**Best Land Manager:** Government Girls Secondary School, Chhattarpur is located in the rocky Aravalli zone, but despite that, it maintains 105 native plant species and 78 per cent of the required green area – what's more, it does not have a single borewell on the premises!