



**GOVERNANCE  
AWARDS  
2019  
12-12-2019**

**EXCELLENT CONTRIBUTION  
AWARD**

*Shri Kundan Kumar, IAS*

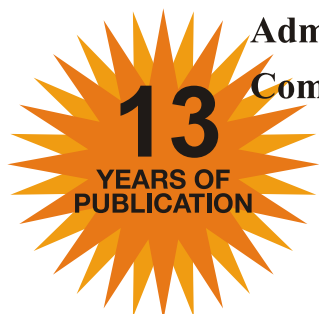
(District Magistrate, Banka, Bihar)

For distinguished work in reinventing education using technology in Maoist-hit Bihar district

*A* 2012-batch Bihar cadre IAS officer, Kundan Kumar is an engineering graduate. He has been proactively working for providing quality school education in India by leveraging technology with focus on ensuring continuous monitoring and accountability. Unnayan Banka, a project devised by him in collaboration with an education start-up, Eckovation, is fostering a healthy environment in senior secondary government schools in the district. It encourages active student-teacher participation by developing conceptual understanding through animated and interactive video lectures. Mobile phones and smart TVs are used to deliver quality education to students in remote areas. Under the Unnayan initiative, students are learning English, reasoning and aptitude skills along with technical skills such as designing websites, software programming and Android app development.

His initiative has led to an attendance increase in schools from 17 percent to 53 percent while average marks increased from 26 percent to 77 percent. 'Mera Mobile, Mera Vidyalaya' is being used by more than 10,000 learners, educators, experts and parents across India. The Special Employability Bridge Programme is designed to facilitate placements. For the first time in the district, 1,000 students (mostly belonging to the underprivileged category) received placement offers from companies like Tata Consultancy Services, Suzuki, etc., opening the doors of the private sector. A district where the literacy rate is a mere 58.17 percent, almost a shocking 12 percent below the national average of 70.04 percent, has seen an impressive turnaround. The programme is now being replicated in the entire state on the direction of the chief minister, covering around 28 lakh students.

Kundan Kumar was conferred the Prime Minister's Award for Excellence in Public Administration in 2018 and the International Innovation Award, 2018, at the biennial Commonwealth Association for Public Administration and Management (CAPAM) conference.



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