



**GEMS OF**



**MENTOR**



**INDIA**





# **GEMS OF** **MENTOR** **INDIA**





# MESSAGE FROM MISSION DIRECTOR



**Dr. Chintan Vaishnav**  
Mission Director, Atal Innovation  
Mission, NITI Aayog



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Government of India  
NITI Aayog  
**Atal Innovation Mission**  
Sansad Marg, New Delhi-110001

## Message from the Mission Director

Science at its core is woven from diverse threads of thought and inquiry. Learning science isn't about blind acceptance of a single narrative but it's about embracing the richness of diverse perspectives, engaging in meaningful dialogues, and seeking the threads that connect seemingly disparate ideas. Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) through its network of Atal Tinkering Labs (ATL) is trying to kindle the spirit of exploration and open-mindedness amongst school students across India and these labs are serving as a forum to innovate and exchange ideas.

The ATLs are spaces which serve as fertile grounds for ideas to germinate and grow, but even the most fertile grounds need nurturing. When it was said, "The mind is not a vessel that needs filling, but wood that needs igniting", it clearly highlighted the role of good mentors in the life of a student who not only impart subject knowledge but also help them explore real world problems, nudge them to think and support them to come up with a solution. The 'Mentors of Change' selected by AIM are such experienced professionals, academicians and experts in the field of science, technology, innovation, marketing etc. who are helping in transforming the traditional pedagogy to active learning and by tinkering with the students in these ATLs.

A mentor is someone who possesses the ability to recognize fundamentals, deconstruct complex tasks, and guide their mentees to start from scratch. This is exactly what our mentors are entrusted with in the tinkering labs. Their unwavering commitment is instrumental in shaping a new generation of young thinkers and innovators who embrace challenges with an open mind and create a workforce of job creators and not just job seekers.

The "Gems of Mentor India" book by AIM showcases these outstanding mentors and serves as recognition for their tireless efforts and dedication. I congratulate all the mentors featuring in this book and urge them to continue their good work. It is your willingness to contribute to the future of this Nation that not only nurtures leaders but also fosters continual personal growth and learning throughout your lives.

(Dr. Chintan Vaishnav)







**Ms Deepali Upadhyay**

Program Director, Atal Tinkering Labs  
Atal Innovation Mission, NITI Aayog

# Preface

It is said a good mentor will inspire you, push you to break barriers, develop you, and expand your perception. Imagine what would be India's prowess in Science and Technology today, had Dr Vikram Sarabhai not found a mentor and friend like Dr Homi J Bhabha or our former Hon'ble President Dr APJ Abdul Kalam had not mentored an army of scientists during his lifetime. These strong mentor-mentee relationships have revolutionized the stance of India on the world map. That is the power of mentoring!

Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) launched the Mentor India program with a vision to connect industry experts, academicians, startup founders, scientists etc. to the students in the Atal Tinkering Labs (ATL) so that they can learn from real life experiences. Mentor India is a strategic nation-building program to engage mentors who can lead the way for students of ATLs across India. These individuals with a commitment to give back to the society have volunteered to nurture the young minds and help them with future skills such as design thinking, robotics, AI-OT etc. The Mentor India Program champions the cause of mentorship as a catalyst for nation-building. We envision the Mentor India community bridging the gap that often hinders our youth from seizing global opportunities

The 'Gems of Mentor India' book is our way of recognizing the outstanding work done by our mentors for their students, community, and ATL itself over time. The book aims to celebrate their hard work and dedication, inspiring others to persistently cultivate an innovative mindset among India's youth. I applaud and congratulate the Mentors of Change, urging them to continue inspiring fellow mentors and guiding students on this transformative journey.

It has been a wonderful team effort that has resulted in completion of this book. My special words of praise to Ms Tanvi Misra and our intern Ms. Yashika Khatri who have provided invaluable support in the creation and editing of this book. I would also like to thank Mr. Prateek Deshmukh, Mr. Shubham Gupta and Mr. Suman Pandit for supporting throughout the process.

As we embark on another year of empowering young minds through the Atal Tinkering Lab, let us collectively explore this world of possibilities. Together, let us continue to nurture innovation, paving the way for a brighter, more inventive India. Thank you for your continued support and dedication to the vision of Atal Innovation Mission.

**Keep Mentoring! 😊**







# ABOUT



# GEMS OF MENTOR INDIA

**T**he Mentor India program is a voluntary national movement being led by Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), wherein skilled professionals provide pro-bono mentoring to young Atal Tinkering Lab (ATL) innovators, with a strong sentiment towards nation building. These skilled volunteers, who are called the 'Mentors of Change' spend time on-ground with ATL students, who are the young innovators of India and enable them to experience, learn and practice 21st century skills such as human centric design approach, computational thinking, physical computing etc.

They work with a vision to give back to the country, and play a significant role in building a new India – one which pioneers in technology and innovations and emerges as a world leader. ATLs are non-prescriptive by nature, and mentors are expected to be enablers rather than instructors.

Every year, AIM acknowledges the great work being done by the Mentors of Change and releases a book called the 'Gems of Mentor India'. This book is an attempt to highlight the mentors who through their consistency, hard-work and dedication have gone an extra mile to help furthering the innovation journey of young tinkerers.





## Gnane Swarnadh Satapathi

### ATL Name

GHS Koila, SDPT PU College Kateel

### City And State

Balotra, Rajasthan

### What excites you the most about mentoring young minds?

Mentoring young minds excites me profoundly as it allows for the transfer of knowledge while bearing witness to the imaginative aspirations of students. The prospect of guiding and shaping intellects toward realizing their innovative dreams ignites a sense of fulfillment within me. It's not just about imparting information; it's about fostering growth, inspiring creativity, and nurturing the next generation of thinkers and creators.

### What advice would you provide to your fellow mentors and/or people who are just starting out?

Understanding that each student learns at their own pace and may encounter obstacles along the way is paramount. Patience allows mentors to provide support, encouragement, and guidance tailored to the individual needs of each student, fostering an environment conducive to growth and development.





# KHETESH PATEL

**ATL Name**

Jahwar Navodaya Vidyalaya Pachpadra

**City and State**

Mangalore, Karnataka



## **What excites you the most about mentoring young minds?**

What excites me the most is witnessing the spark of creativity within young minds and guiding them as they explore new possibilities fills me with enthusiasm and purpose. Cultivating an environment where creativity thrives allows for the cultivation of groundbreaking ideas that have the potential to shape the future.

## **What advice would you provide to your fellow mentors and/or people who are just starting out?**

I recommend prioritizing the development of critical thinking and problem-solving skills in young innovators by integrating thought-provoking activities into the curriculum. By fostering an environment where students are encouraged to question, analyze, and evaluate information critically, we equip them with essential tools for navigating the complexities of the modern world.





## IYYAPPAN KANDHASAMY

### ATL Name

GHSS Chokkanathanputhur

### City and State

Virudhunagar, Tamil Nadu

### What excites you the most about mentoring young minds?

I find students' tinkering sessions and project sessions particularly exhilarating. These hands-on activities provide invaluable opportunities for students to apply theoretical knowledge in practical, real-world contexts. Witnessing students engage in experimentation, problem-solving, and collaboration during these sessions is incredibly rewarding.

### What advice would you provide to your fellow mentors and/or people who are just starting out?

Incorporating design thinking into the curriculum fosters a mindset centred on empathy, collaboration, and iteration. Encouraging students to empathise with end-users, brainstorm diverse solutions, prototype their ideas, and seek feedback promotes a holistic approach to problem-solving.



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# UTKARSH AHUJA

## ATL Name

Himalaya Public School, GHS Yentaganahalli,  
Government School Peenya, SKV Yamuna  
Vihar, GSSS Sandhole, National Model School -  
Coimbatore

## City and State

Delhi



### What excites you the most about mentoring young minds?

In today's rapidly evolving world, it's essential for individuals to understand their role in shaping the future and contributing meaningfully to society. Emphasizing the importance of acquiring skills and fostering critical thinking not only empowers individuals to navigate complex challenges but also equips them to actively participate in the progress and development of their communities and nation. This realization ignites a sense of purpose and responsibility, driving me to advocate for educational approaches that prioritise the cultivation of these essential competencies.

### What advice would you provide to your fellow mentors and/or people who are just starting out?

Listening attentively to students' perspectives and ideas not only validates their voices but also provides valuable insights for tailoring instruction to their individual needs. Additionally, involving students in decision-making processes and encouraging their input cultivates a sense of ownership and investment in their education.





## DR. KETNA ATUL MATKAR

### ATL Name

NMMC Secondary School, Ghansoli, Navi Mumbai; St. Mary's Multipurpose High School, Vashi

### City and State

Thane, Maharashtra

### What excites you the most about mentoring young minds?

I feel excited to be a mentor to young students in school because it allows me to witness their curiosity grow and to watch their potential blossom while receiving assistance and encouragement to get over learning and growth challenges. It gives me deep satisfaction to be able to contribute to their journey of self-discovery.

### What advice would you provide to your fellow mentors and/or people who are just starting out?

Serving as a Mentor of Change offers a great opportunity to contribute to the country's development by providing essential guidance for future competencies such as design thinking. It goes beyond merely supporting students' exploration and creativity; it involves setting an example of fundamental principles like dedication, forbearance, flexibility, and a growth mindset to motivate and shape a generation prepared for the challenges ahead.



# DR. NARESH SACHDEV

**ATL Name**

DCM Presidency Jamalpur – Ludhiana, BCM  
Chandigarh Road- Ludhiana, Delhi Public  
School- Ludhiana

**City and State**

Ludhiana, Punjab



## What excites you the most about mentoring young minds?

Not all children reach their full potential in school, as each student is unique with their own strengths, requiring additional guidance in certain areas. Young minds often possess curated ideas that can be transformed into successful businesses. Mentoring provides an opportunity to practice leadership by offering support and direction to mentees, fostering their learning and growth. Supporting others and making strategic decisions are integral to leadership, and mentoring offers valuable practice for honing these skills. The vast potential in young minds motivates me to nurture them for a better tomorrow.

## What advice would you provide to your fellow mentors and/or people who are just starting out?

Mentorship can offer numerous benefits for both mentors and their mentees. Cultivating this relationship can facilitate mutual learning, expand networks, and foster professional growth.





## VAISHALI CHANDRAKANT SHELAR

### ATL Name

Rajada Borivali Municipal School, Malad  
Municipal Secondary School, S C D  
Barfiwala School, Andheri

### City and State

Mumbai, Maharashtra

### What excites you the most about mentoring young minds?

Mentoring isn't just about sharing knowledge; it's about igniting a passion for learning and discovery. Guiding and inspiring the next generation is fulfilling as you witness their personal growth, creativity, and development of their own visions. Encouraging curiosity and lifelong learning while sharing experiences helps them navigate their paths.

### What advice would you provide to your fellow mentors and/or people who are just starting out?

For mentors starting out or aiming to enhance their impact, fostering a supportive and open atmosphere is essential. Listen attentively, foster comfort for exploration and mistake-making, and encourage hands-on learning. Patience, flexibility, and genuine investment in their growth will make a significant impact on their journey and enhance your mentoring experience.





# ARVIND JANARDAN LONDHE

## ATL Name

Gomukh Vidyalaya & Uchha Madhyamik  
Vidyalaya-Nandagomukh, Kendriya Vidyalaya  
VayuSena Nagar-Nagpur, Somalwar HS & Jr.  
College, Nikalas Branch-Nagpur

## City and State

Nagpur, Maharashtra



### What excites you the most about mentoring young minds?

Every generation is graced & empowered to face & handle challenges in that era and create a path for the next generation. This present students' force in our nation too bears the same and are the future voyagers of our Great Nation. I am blessed to be entrusted to serve & help them in their great innovative & creative positive journey.

### What advice would you provide to your fellow mentors and/or people who are just starting out?

They are earnestly requested to remember that they are not just anybody but are blessed with the opportunity to serve and assist the future generations in becoming well-prepared for all aspects of life and effective leaders of our great nation.



## SUBHAJIT BHATTACHARYA

### ATL Name(s)

N.K. Bagrodia Public School, Sector-4  
Dwarka - New Delhi, M L Khanna Dav Public  
School, Sector-6 Dwarka - New Delhi, ITL  
Public School, Sector-9 Dwarka- New Delhi

### City and State

New Delhi

### What excites you the most about mentoring young minds?

Grateful to NITI Aayog for the mentoring opportunity. With 16+ years of experience, I'm passionate about guiding students to contribute to society. The thing that excites me the most about mentoring is up-skilling students and improving academic pedagogy with technology.

### What advice would you provide to your fellow mentors and/or people who are just starting out?

As professionals, it's our duty to foster a culture of giving back to society. By investing time in mentoring and teaching students, we empower them to build a stronger nation. Let's make impactful contributions to academia and leave a lasting legacy. Through mentorship and education, we not only impart knowledge and skills but also instill values of empathy, responsibility, and community engagement in the next generation.





# DR. ANANTA SINGH RAGHUVANSHI

**ATL Name(s)**

Rockwood School

**City and State**

Noida, Uttar Pradesh



## **What excites you the most about mentoring young minds?**

What excites me the most is ensuring that the students are understanding modules and are inculcating these learnings in their real life. I'm determined towards the notion that good mentors and education should be available to every child of Bharat.

## **What advice would you provide to your fellow mentors and/or people who are just starting out?**

My advice is to create interest, ignite ambition, foster confidence, and appreciate initiative. By sparking curiosity and enthusiasm, educators can cultivate a passion for learning that fuels ambition and drives students toward their goals. Fostering confidence instills a belief in one's abilities and encourages risk-taking and innovation. Moreover, recognizing and valuing initiative empowers students to take ownership of their learning journey and pursue their interests and goals with determination.



## VILAS GHARAT

### ATL Name(s)

Symbiosis School - Nasik, New English  
School- Dholkham, Sadhana Kanya  
Vidyalaya Hadapsar- Pune

### City and State

Thane, Maharashtra

### What excites you the most about mentoring young minds?

I am deeply passionate about mentoring young minds and nurturing their potential for excellence. My excitement lies in the prospect of guiding these budding students towards becoming innovators and entrepreneurs. By providing them with the necessary support, encouragement, and resources, I aim to cultivate their creativity, critical thinking skills, and entrepreneurial mindset. Through mentorship, I am committed to helping them realise their dreams and achieve success in their endeavors.

### What advice would you provide to your fellow mentors and/or people who are just starting out?

“Do whatever you love, and love whatever you do. Be passionate about your pursuits.” This advice underscores the importance of pursuing one’s passions wholeheartedly. When we engage in activities that genuinely inspire and fulfill us, our enthusiasm and dedication naturally follow.



# AKSHAYA BHATIA

## ATL Name(s)

Gyan Mandir Public School, Mira Model  
Public School, Saraswati Bal Mandir School

## City and State

Delhi



### What excites you the most about mentoring young minds?

The prospect of collaborating with like-minded individuals to create an environment where creativity thrives and new ideas flourish fills me with excitement and purpose. By working together to support and empower aspiring entrepreneurs, we can cultivate a community that celebrates bold thinking, risk-taking, and transformative innovation.

### What advice would you provide to your fellow mentors and/or people who are just starting out?

Be passionate about guiding, motivating, and inspiring young individuals to innovate and collaboratively find solutions to problems, thus enhancing life processes. Contribute to the nation-building endeavour by sharing your expertise and experience to strengthen the startup ecosystem.





## VIJI SRIDHAR

### ATL Name(s)

DAV Dayanand Vihar Delhi Government  
Girls Higher Secondary School, Krishnagiri  
- Tamil Nadu

### City and State

Delhi

### What excites you the most about mentoring young minds?

The enthusiasm shown by my mentees upon seeing me, their quest to learn and innovate, takes me to a different level of mentoring. The ocean of ideas floating in their minds, waiting to be refined, opens up fantastic learning possibilities for me as a mentor as well. The thought that I am able to help the young minds gain a deeper understanding of various issues around them and navigate them to arrive at a solution empowers and encourages me to contribute to the expansion of the innovation ecosystem.

### What advice would you provide to your fellow mentors and/or people who are just starting out?

Just realize that mentoring has long been recognized as a highly effective development tool. A mentor should never tell the mentee what to do; instead, their role is to ask good questions, listen, challenge their thinking abilities, clarify, and support their short-term goals and longer-term aspirations, thereby encouraging their development.



# DHANPAT RAJ DHARIWAL

## ATL Name(s)

DPS - Jaipur, Central Academy (Ambabari)  
Jaipur, SRN International-Jaipur

## City and State

Jaipur, Rajasthan



### What excites you the most about mentoring young minds?

Students' enthusiasm and enjoyment of learning are truly inspiring, and as a mentor, I find myself learning a great deal from them in the process. The positive support from faculty, school management, and parents further motivates and encourages me in my role. Being part of such a supportive community fuels my passion for mentoring and makes the journey immensely enjoyable. Each interaction with students, each milestone achieved, adds to the fulfillment of guiding them towards their goals.

### What advice would you provide to your fellow mentors and/or people who are just starting out?

This is a great journey, and everyone involved in the process has the passion to do something new. You will enjoy this incredible journey. You need to dedicate 10 hours of your time to children every month.



## PRAVEEN SHARMA

### ATL Name(s)

Maharaja Agarsain Public School Sec-13 -Vasundhara, CSKM - Delhi, Radiant International School - Patna

### City and State

Delhi

### What excites you the most about mentoring young minds?

Guiding and enlightening the next generation to explore opportunities that will not only inspire innovation and invention but also foster collaboration with diverse individuals and teamwork to create a better world. This involves instilling responsibility and accountability, nurturing participative citizenship in this universe through various learning and development tools.

### What advice would you provide to your fellow mentors and/or people who are just starting out?

“Trust the process and keep moving forward!” This mantra encapsulates the essence of perseverance and faith in the journey towards our goals. It reminds us to stay committed to the path we’ve chosen, even when faced with challenges or setbacks. By trusting in the process, we maintain confidence in our abilities and remain focused on our objectives.





# SHACHIDEVI T K

**ATL Name(s)**

DPS Bangalore

**City and State**

Bangalore, Karnataka



## **What excites you the most about mentoring young minds?**

The most exciting aspect of mentoring young minds is the opportunity it presents to meet and guide the bright and promising individuals shaping the future of our nation, India.

## **What advice would you provide to your fellow mentors and/or people who are just starting out?**

I would encourage fellow mentors and newcomers to collaborate and innovate in their mentoring approaches. The field offers ample room for growth and improvement, and there's a plethora of opportunities to explore and make a meaningful impact.





## HAKANI RAJ ARVINDKUMAR

### ATL Name(s)

C N English Medium School, Navkar Public School and Anant School of Excellence

### City and State

Ahmedabad, Gujarat

### What excites you the most about mentoring young minds?

What excites me the most about mentoring young minds, particularly ATL school students, is witnessing the spark of curiosity within them. Guiding these budding talents and seeing their creative potential unfold is incredibly rewarding. The opportunity to instill a passion for learning, problem-solving, and critical thinking in the next generation fuels my enthusiasm for mentoring, as I contribute to shaping their future success and impact.

### What advice would you provide to your fellow mentors and/or people who are just starting out?

Mentoring is more than just a trend; it needs a deep love for what you do, strong dedication, and a true passion for helping others. It's like putting in a lot of effort (99%) to bring out a bit of inspiration (1%), and it's definitely not easy. Be creative and find solutions to problems. If you're ready to work hard and stick with it through tough times, mentoring could be for you.





# DR. PRASHANT R. NAIR

## ATL Name(s)

Yuvabharathi Public School-Coimbatore,  
Amrita Vidyalayam – Trichy, Amrita  
Vidyalayam - Nagapattinam

## City and State

Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu



## What excites you the most about mentoring young minds?

Being a catalyst to unleash the imagination, innovation, creativity, talent, and teamwork of young minds is what excites me the most in mentoring. Witnessing the transformative power of guidance and encouragement as it ignites a spark within each student fills me with immense joy and purpose. By fostering an environment where ideas are celebrated, challenges are embraced, and collaboration thrives, I empower students to explore their potential fully.

## What advice would you provide to your fellow mentors and/or people who are just starting out?

An important role of a mentor is being an ambassador of the Atal Tinkering Labs (ATL) program and building partnerships and collaborations for the ATL in the innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem with various stakeholders like industry & industry bodies, startups, NGOs, government agencies, and higher educational institutions.



## UMESH CHANDRA KULSHRESTHA

### ATL Name(s)

Bhopal Nobles Senior Secondary School,  
Udaipur

### City and State

Udaipur, Rajasthan

### What excites you the most about mentoring young minds?

I'm most excited about their systematic approach and eagerness to learn new things, especially through community projects addressing local challenges like access to electricity or healthcare. Many actively engage with the tools and activities provided in ATL Labs, while others excel in presentations on topics like AI, ChatGPT, and virtual reality.

### What advice would you provide to your fellow mentors and/or people who are just starting out?

My foremost advice to fellow mentors, especially those starting out, is to practice patience in initial interactions with school faculties. Building rapport takes time, and it's common to feel disheartened initially. I recommend visiting the assigned schools a couple of times to establish face-to-face interactions, boosting morale and fostering open communication.



# SHIRSHENDU BHARADWAJ

## ATL Name(s)

Vivekanand Vidya Mandir, M.L.ZS-Bihta,  
DPS-Patna, SD Jain HS School, DPS-  
Darbhanga

## City and State

Patna, Bihar



### What excites you the most about mentoring young minds?

Serving as an advisor and board member for various university e-cells since 2014, I've witnessed remarkable innovation from students. Seeing the inventive work at the college level raises anticipation about the future university students our cells will produce. India is on the cusp of a new era of innovation.

### What advice would you provide to your fellow mentors and/or people who are just starting out?

While fostering innovation is crucial, ensure that students' tinkering time is meaningful. It's essential for them to learn innovation, entrepreneurship, and their responsibility to the nation while fostering teamwork. Instead of peer competition, labs should exemplify "Unity in Education," build a strong local team and foster an innovation culture.





## GANESH R

### ATL Name(s)

Government Girls Higher Secondary School  
Chatrapatti, P.A.C.M Higher Secondary  
School Rajapalayam, Sri Ramana Vidyalaya  
Mont Matriculation Higher Secondary School  
Rajapalayam

### City and State

Virudhunagar, Tamil Nadu

### What excites you the most about mentoring young minds?

Mentoring young people is exciting as it involves guiding them in their learning and growth journey. Mentors not only share knowledge but also learn from their mentees, fostering relationships and patience. Witnessing mentees succeed is incredibly rewarding, making mentoring a meaningful endeavor.

### What advice would you provide to your fellow mentors and/or people who are just starting out?

My advice to fellow mentors and newcomers is to approach mentoring with the motto “Guiding minds, igniting futures, one heart at a time.” This encapsulates the profound impact mentoring can have on shaping young lives and futures. Each interaction, each moment of guidance, has the potential to spark transformation and set in motion a trajectory of success and fulfillment.



# ROHIT LADSARIA

**ATL Name(s)**

DPS - Greater Faridabad

**City and State**

Faridabad, Haryana



## **What excites you the most about mentoring young minds?**

Observing students enthusiastically pursue their interests, apply themselves diligently, and continuously seek opportunities for self-improvement is incredibly inspiring. As a mentor, being able to witness to their journey of discovery and development fills me with anticipation and joy, knowing that I have the privilege of playing a part in shaping their future successes.

## **What advice would you provide to your fellow mentors and/or people who are just starting out?**

I advise fellow mentors and newcomers to adopt a learning mindset rather than assuming a consulting role. It's essential to listen attentively and grasp their perspective. Moreover, following the principle of researching nine times before offering one word of advice is crucial.





## CHRISTOPHER SEQUEIRA

### ATL Name(s)

Malad Municipal school, S C D Barfiwala  
Andheri school, Oxford International High  
School

### City and State

Mumbai, Maharashtra

### What excites you the most about mentoring young minds?

For me mentoring young minds is the chance to play a pivotal role in developing their potential, encouraging them to think independently, and witnessing firsthand their journey of discovery and innovation.

### What advice would you provide to your fellow mentors and/or people who are just starting out?

Fellow mentors, remember that the heart of mentoring lies in fostering a nurturing environment where active listening and empathy empower your mentees to explore their full potential. Encourage critical thinking and independence, as these are key to their growth, while remaining open to the insights and fresh perspectives they bring to your own learning journey.





# GANESH NARAYANAN

## ATL Name(s)

Amrita Vidyalayam Puthiyakavu, Amrita  
Vidyalayam Thalassery

## City and State

Kollam, Kerala



### **What excites you the most about mentoring young minds?**

Mentoring young minds fills me with a profound sense of purpose and passion. It transcends the mere imparting of knowledge; it's about fostering an environment where ideas can flourish freely. I am dedicated to nurturing their ability to think critically and express themselves without inhibition, enabling them to navigate challenges and seize opportunities. Each interaction presents an opportunity to promote independent thinking and creativity, fostering mutual learning and joy in unlocking their potential to become future leaders and innovators.

### **What advice would you provide to your fellow mentors and/or people who are just starting out?**

Mentoring is a transformative journey of self-discovery and guiding young minds. It requires attentiveness, patience, and empathy to understand their perspectives and aspirations. Encourage them to explore their interests and strengths, providing constructive feedback and instilling humility in their pursuit of knowledge. Embrace flexibility and remain committed to lifelong learning. Above all, enjoy the journey, as mentoring is not only about helping others but also about forming meaningful connections and personal growth for both mentors and mentees.



## KIRAN KUMAR H S

### ATL Name(s)

Air Force School Hebbal, Bangalore

### City and State

Bangalore, Karnataka

### What excites you the most about mentoring young minds?

What excites me most about mentoring young minds is seeing: new dreams in their eyes, their potential blossom, the confidence they demonstrate in taking on new challenges, and the transformational-shift taking place within them.

### What advice would you provide to your fellow mentors and/or people who are just starting out?

For novice mentors, effective strategies are pivotal. Start by actively listening to mentees, grasping their needs and aspirations. Be approachable, offering guidance and clarity promptly. Cultivate curiosity and initiative in mentees, nurturing independent thought. Celebrate their milestones, recognizing progress. Maintain honesty in feedback, fostering trust. Adapt your approach to each mentee's unique requirements. Lastly, commit long-term; impactful mentoring demands dedication.





# KARTHIGANESH DURAI

## ATL Name(s)

GHSS - Kolapally, GRG Memorial HS -  
Masinagudi

## City and State

Bangalore, Karnataka



### What excites you the most about mentoring young minds?

Mentoring thrills me most with the creativity and innovation young minds offer. Their fresh perspectives, bold ideas, and inventive solutions, when given freedom to explore, amaze me. Witnessing their boundless potential and imagination is inspiring. Nurturing their creativity not only equips them with ingenuity for challenges but also ignites a lifelong passion for learning. Guiding this journey is gratifying, shaping future leaders and innovators.

### What advice would you provide to your fellow mentors and/or people who are just starting out?

As mentors, our belief in the students builds their confidence and motivation. It fosters a supportive environment where they feel encouraged to pursue their aspirations and overcome obstacles. By instilling this belief, we not only unlock their potential but also nurture a mindset of resilience and determination that will serve them well throughout their lives.





## ANKITA RAJAK

### ATL Name(s)

GHSS - Kolapally, GRG Memorial  
HS - Masinagudi

### City and State

Bangalore, Karnataka

### What excites you the most about mentoring young minds?

What excites me most about mentoring young minds is their boundless curiosity and fresh perspectives. Interacting with students filled with eagerness to learn and innovate invigorates me. Guiding them through their journey of discovery, I'm constantly inspired by their creativity. It's a mutually enriching experience where I not only share knowledge but also learn from their unique insights, shaping future leaders and innovators.

### What advice would you provide to your fellow mentors and/or people who are just starting out?

To my fellow mentors and those embarking on this journey, I advocate for active participation in tinkering activities. It's not just about imparting technical knowledge like high-tech or robotics; sharing life experiences in teamwork, leadership, resource management, and unconventional thinking can profoundly impact students. Let's unite to foster innovation and contribute towards a more innovative India.



# RAJIT KARUNAKARAN NAIR

## ATL Name(s)

St Thomas Residential School and Christ  
Nagar Senior Secondary School

## City and State

Trivandrum, Kerala



### What excites you the most about mentoring young minds?

What excites me about mentoring young students is the opportunity to foster their innovative ideas and guide them towards transforming these ideas into tangible products. Witnessing their creative confidence flourish, contributing to the creation of a startup ecosystem through ATLs, and engaging in a reciprocal learning process are immensely fulfilling aspects of mentoring.

### What advice would you provide to your fellow mentors and/or people who are just starting out?

Mentoring young minds is an exhilarating endeavor that allows us to participate in a nationwide initiative aimed at turning dreams into reality. As mentors, experiencing the “wow moment” when a student conceives an idea with the potential to “make a dent in the universe” is deeply rewarding. ATLs provide a platform for mentors to guide and inspire young minds, ultimately contributing to the future of innovation.







## RAJA SEKHAR VASA

### ATL Name(s)

Sri Sarada Vidya Nilayam and  
Visakhapatnam Pratibha Vidyalayam,  
Visakhapatnam

### City and State

Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh

### What excites you the most about mentoring young minds?

Mentoring is a two-way street. Young minds often bring fresh perspectives, innovative ideas, and new questions that challenge me to learn and grow alongside them. This dynamic exchange keeps my own passion for learning alive and ensures that the process is mutually enriching.

### What advice would you provide to your fellow mentors and/or people who are just starting out?

Encourage an atmosphere where mistakes are seen as valuable learning opportunities. A supportive environment allows students to take risks, ask questions, and express themselves without fear of judgement. This is crucial for experiential learning, where trial and error are part of the process.



# DR. MANISHA ANWEKAR

## ATL Name(s)

Kendriya Vidyalaya, INS Hamla - Mumbai,  
Narayan Das High School -Amravati

## City and State

Mumbai, Maharashtra

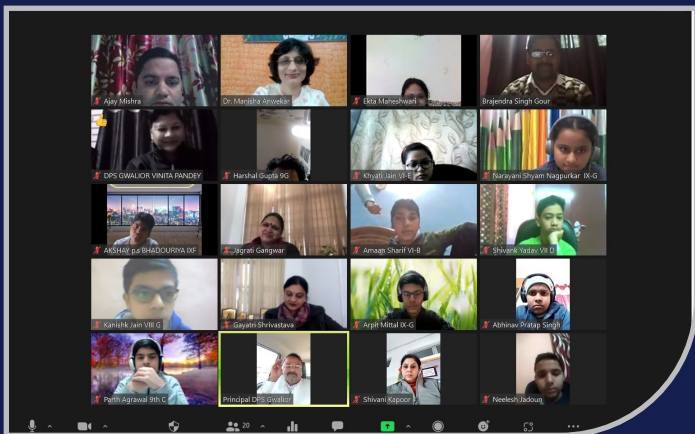


## What excites you the most about mentoring young minds?

I find immense excitement in connecting with young minds and empowering them to explore new horizons. It's a privilege to facilitate their journey of discovery, encouraging them to broaden their perspectives, embrace curiosity, and venture into uncharted territories. Witnessing the spark of enthusiasm ignite within them as they embark on new adventures fills me with joy and purpose.

## What advice would you provide to your fellow mentors and/or people who are just starting out?

Patience is key; establish connections with both the teacher in charge and the students. Beyond teaching, mentoring is a two-way learning process, offering valuable insights along the way. Building rapport with the teacher and students facilitates collaboration and ensures alignment in supporting student development.





## SRILATHA PERICHARLA

### ATL Name

Smt Kamalabai Educational Institution

### City and State

Bengaluru, Karnataka

### What excites you the most about mentoring young minds?

I resonate deeply with the excitement of connecting with young minds and empowering them to explore new horizons. There's an invigorating energy in guiding students as they embark on journeys of discovery, curiosity, and growth. Witnessing their enthusiasm ignite and seeing their perspectives expand fills me with a profound sense of fulfillment.

### What advice would you provide to your fellow mentors and/or people who are just starting out?

Understanding the unique needs, interests, and challenges of school students is crucial, and mentors must adapt their approach accordingly. By staying attuned to the pulse of the students, mentors can tailor their guidance to meet students where they are, ensuring relevance and effectiveness. Embracing this flexibility and responsiveness fosters deeper connections and promotes meaningful growth and development in students.





# BISHWA RANJAN BEHARA

## ATL Name

Navi Mumbai Municipal Corporation  
School No. 104, Rabale Annasaheb Kayani  
Vidyalaya, Satara Neral Vidya Mandir, Neral

## City and State

Mumbai, Maharashtra



### What excites you the most about mentoring young minds?

Working with young minds allows me to witness and nurture creativity and innovation. It's truly exciting to see students develop new ideas, solve problems, and think outside the box. Sharing my knowledge and expertise with these young minds is incredibly rewarding. The satisfaction of passing on skills, insights, and wisdom contributes significantly to the joy I find in mentoring.

### What advice would you provide to your fellow mentors and/or people who are just starting out?

My advice to fellow mentors and those starting out would be to foster a love for learning by actively encouraging curiosity. Establish an environment where questions are not only welcomed but celebrated, stimulating intellectual growth and enhancing problem-solving skills. Rather than offering all the answers, guide students through the process of problem-solving, encouraging critical thinking and independent exploration. This approach empowers students, building confidence in their abilities.



## GAYATHRI MANIKUTTY

### ATL Name

Amrita Vidyalayam Puthiyakavu, Amrita  
Vidyalayam Thalassery

### City and State

Kollam, Kerala

### What excites you the most about mentoring young minds?

Mentoring young minds is a thrilling endeavour. The prospect of igniting the spark of curiosity in young minds, watching them grow, learn, and eventually soar like majestic confident eagles, it's like witnessing the birth of a new galaxy of knowledge. It's like being a Jedi Master, but instead of lightsabers, you wield the power of wisdom and encouragement and usher them into the world of product design and innovation for a better India.

### What advice would you provide to your fellow mentors and/or people who are just starting out?

In mentoring, embracing chaos is paramount. Stay flexible. Listen intently to your students; wisdom often emerges from unexpected sources. Encourage curiosity, urging students to explore the uncharted. Lead by example, embodying traits like humility and a thirst for knowledge. Celebrate diversity, cherishing the unique perspectives each student brings. And amidst the seriousness, remember to inject humour.



# AMARNATH T

## ATL Name

Popilli Raja govt higher secondary school  
puzhal, government boys higher secondary  
school naikenpattai, PCKG govt higher  
secondary school

## City and State

Chennai, Tamil Nadu



## What excites you the most about mentoring young minds?

Feeling proud when students grasp a concept is a testament to the mentor's effectiveness and the student's hard work. Witnessing their success in competitions is incredibly exciting, as it validates their efforts and showcases their skills. Moreover, seeing students take on mentoring roles themselves is immensely gratifying, as it reflects their growth and willingness to give back. The cycle of learning and teaching perpetuates, and as a mentor, observing this progression is both rewarding and motivating.

## What advice would you provide to your fellow mentors and/or people who are just starting out?

I recommend to newcomers that they first engage with students on a personal level before diving into mentoring. Building rapport and establishing a connection with students lays a solid foundation for effective mentorship. By prioritising relationship building, mentors can make a significant difference in the lives of their students and maximise the impact of their mentorship efforts.







## CHHAYA B MARBATE

### ATL Name

Parshuram Joma Mhatre Vidyalaya,  
Panvel Anjuman Islam Saif Tyabji Girls  
High School, Mumbai Shetkari Shikshan  
Sanstha's Vidyalaya, Ghansoli

### City and State

Mumbai, Maharashtra

### What excites you the most about mentoring young minds?

Working with students at the Atal Tinkering Lab is an exhilarating experience. I have the opportunity to witness their creativity firsthand and guide them as they generate new ideas and tackle real-world problems in innovative ways. It's incredibly rewarding to be a part of their journey as they explore, experiment, and learn through hands-on projects. Moreover, being involved in the Atal Tinkering Lab allows us to make a positive impact on education by fostering a culture of innovation and preparing students for the challenges they'll face in the future.

### What advice would you provide to your fellow mentors and/or people who are just starting out?

Rather than simply providing answers, it's important to guide students through the thought process and help them develop problem-solving skills and independence in their learning journey. Encourage them to break down the problem into smaller components, identify relevant information, and consider different approaches to finding a solution. Ask probing questions to stimulate critical thinking and encourage them to explore various possibilities. Offer support and guidance as needed, but also



# VINOD KUMAR

## ATL Name

GSSS Gudia Khera, GSSS Begu Khera, MRS  
School Sirsa

## City and State

Sirsa, Haryana



### What excites you the most about mentoring young minds?

It is witnessing the boundless curiosity and hunger for knowledge they bring. Each student is like a unique universe, brimming with potential and eager to explore. Guiding them through their journey of discovery, witnessing their growth, and seeing the spark of understanding illuminate their eyes is incredibly rewarding. It's a privilege to play a part in shaping their intellectual development and empowering them to reach their fullest potential.

### What advice would you provide to your fellow mentors and/or people who are just starting out?

My advice to fellow mentors and those starting out is to cultivate patience, empathy, and adaptability. Understand that each student is different and may require varied approaches to learning. Listen actively, be open to feedback, and never underestimate the power of encouragement. Embrace the role of a lifelong learner yourself, staying curious and continuously seeking ways to improve your mentorship skills. Keep the passion alive, and the impact will follow.





Designed by:



