

## Khem Villas and The Prakratik Society, Ranthambhore Enriching Lives and Saving Tigers



*Cutting edge Ranthambhore Sevika hospital established by the Prakratik Society, an NGO initiated by the founder of Khem Villas.*

Dr Goverdhan Singh Rathore, son of Ranthambhore Tiger Reserve's most-celebrated Director and tiger conservationist Fateh Singh Rathore, realised early on that the reserve's tigers can be saved only if local people benefit from its thriving presence. The Prakratik Society, an NGO he founded in 1994, winner of TOFTigers 2012 Community Related Tourism Award, has made impressive strides in transforming lives amongst the large and growing population of poor people around Ranthambhore Tiger Reserve to enable people and wild animals to co-exist peacefully. A proportion of the profits generated by Khem Villas, the eco-lodge

set up by Dr Rathore and his wife in 2006, are fed into their philanthropic work each year. Guests are also encouraged to contribute.

### Healthcare



*Founder Dr Goverdhan Singh Rathore at the Ranthambhore Sevika Hospital with a new infant in a warming bed.*

Before the Prakratik Society set up the Ranthambhore Sevika Hospital in 1997, villagers had to travel 200 kms to reach the nearest hospital. Today this multi-specialty hospital provides quality healthcare for the region's poor with free support given where possible to help reform communities previously engaged in poaching. More than 53,000 patients received outpatient healthcare in 2019/20. Services range from General Medicine, Neurology, Gynaecology, Cardiology, Dentistry and Paediatrics to an around the clock Emergency Room and an Intensive Care Unit.

economically marginalized, rural families. 1,588 people were treated in 2019-20 in 38 health camps covering 200 villages adjacent to Ranthambhore.

Outreach medical camps are also organised to reach



*Outreach medical camp.*

### Education



*Fateh Public School set up and run by the Prakratik Society.*

More than 600 students from nearby towns and villages attend the Fateh Public School, an English language High School established by the Prakratik Society in 2001 to bring quality education to the region and to develop understanding and pride in the children's natural heritage. Amongst the subjects taught are history, maths, science, literature, business and computers. Art, music and sports are also part of the curriculum.

Approximately 25% of children study free - mostly those from poor backgrounds in local villages and also including one child for each member of staff at Khem Villas. Fees are approximately 15% less for girls to address lower than average literacy rates amongst girls in the area with scholarships favoured for girls where possible.



A broad curriculum is provided at Fateh Public School set up by the Prakratik Society.

## Renewable Energy and Wood Resources



Traditional method of cooking (left) replaced by biogas (right) provided free to more than 600 local households.

More than 600 biogas digesters have been provided to local villagers since 1999 winning Dr Rathore an Ashden Award for sustainable energy in 2004. Cow dung, available in abundant supply, is used to produce methane piped into homes for cooking fuel, reducing dependency on forest resources.

Seedlings for farmers are also provided to provide them with their own renewable supply of timber and wood fuel.



Villagers and forests benefitting from dairy development initiative.

## Artificial Insemination and Dairy Development

An artificial insemination centre and sustainable stall feeding has been established by the Prakratik Society to help improve cattle breeds and milk yields and reduce pressure on grazing land

## Sustainable Livelihoods

Khem Villas provides a hub for local employment with 90% of its staff drawn from local communities. Local procurement - food, maintenance and locally sourced goods for its shop - contributes further to sustainable livelihoods for the rural community.

The lodge's foundation, the Prakratik Society, works closely with NGO Tiger Watch to find alternative employment for the Moghiya, a tribe historically involved in poaching. The lodge encourages its guests to visit Dhonk, a crafts enterprise run for local Moghiya women and other handicrafts outlets.



Seedling nursery for local farmers.