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MAGAZINE NOTES

Grassroots Case Studies (January 16-31)

15 January 2026 ·

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Grassroots Case Studies (January 16-31)

 **Down to Earth** Chapter 8 · 1 min read ·

Street School for Tribal Children (Panagar, Madhya Pradesh)

- Combats rampant substance abuse (cannabis, cough syrup) and child labour in the **Kol tribal community**
- Initiated by **Anurag Mishra** as open-air “Street School”
- Network of **114 volunteer-teachers** (engineering and law students)
- Rehabilitates vulnerable children through art, channels them into formal schooling
- **UPSC use:** Ethics paper — civil society intervention, tribal welfare, youth rehabilitation

Water Lily Tourism Adaptation (Malarikkal, Kerala)

- Following 2018 Kuttanad floods, delayed Thanneermukkam barrage operation led to massive **Omarana water lily infestation**
- Community adapted: launched **eco-tourism** with boat rides through water lily fields
- Farmers now earn additional **₹1.5-2 lakh monthly** during off-season
- Village turnover: **₹1.5-2 crore**
- **UPSC use:** Socio-economic resilience, grassroots adaptation to ecological crises, invasive species management



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