

**Dr Vikas Mishra****Assistant Professor, A D College, Akbarpur (U.P.)****Science Communicator | Educationist | Puppetry Specialist**

Dr Vikas Mishra is an acclaimed educationist and science communicator, currently serving as Assistant Professor in the Department of B.Ed. at Akbarpur Degree College, Akbarpur, Kanpur Dehat. With a Ph.D. in Education and NET/SLET qualifications, Dr. Mishra has over two decades of experience in science communication, teacher training, and educational research.

He is nationally recognized for integrating traditional puppetry into science and technology communication and has organized and led over 20 workshops and national projects supported by NCSTC-DST, Govt. of India. He has actively participated in 200+ national seminars and 13 international conferences, presenting research on education, communication, and cultural pedagogy.

A prolific writer, Dr Mishra has published more than 40 papers in refereed journals and books and contributed to science magazines like *Vigyan Pragati* and *Vigyan Aao Karke Sikhen*. He serves as editor and reviewer for several national journals and holds life memberships in numerous educational and scientific associations.

His outstanding contributions have earned him prestigious honours including the National Science Communication Award (2022), Innovative Teacher Awards, and multiple recognitions from reputed institutions and literary forums. He continues to inspire as a bridge between scientific thought and public engagement through culturally rooted educational tools.

From Puppets to People's Science: Dr Vikas Mishra's Journey as a Torchbearer of Scientific Temper in Bharat

In the heart of Uttar Pradesh, far from the spotlight of metropolitan laboratories and corporate science, a humble torch has been burning bright carried by a man whose mission is to bring science not just to classrooms, but to streets, villages, fairs, and festivals. This is the story of **Dr Vikas Mishra**, Assistant Professor, science communicator, and people's scientist in the truest sense.

A native of Kanpur, Dr Mishra is not your typical academician confined to lecture halls. Over the past 25 years, he has woven a remarkable narrative of *science for society*, using everything from street plays to puppetry, scientific journalism to school outreach. His story resonates with the spirit of *Viksit Bharat*—a nation that rises by empowering its people through knowledge, especially in its remotest corners.

The Spark: A Scholar Grounded in the Soil

Born on **15th July 1980**, Dr Mishra grew up with a deep curiosity and commitment toward education. After completing his M.Sc. in Physics and an M.Ed. in Education, he pursued a Ph.D. focusing on the psychological and educational challenges of science learning in secondary schools—a rare blend of pedagogy, psychology, and scientific inquiry.

Since **2014**, he has served as Assistant Professor in the Department of Education at Akbarpur Degree College, Kanpur Dehat. But his impact extends far beyond formal education.

"Classroom walls are not enough to ignite scientific curiosity," Dr. Mishra often says. "We need to reach out—wherever people are." This belief shaped a unique career that brings science communication directly to people's hearts, minds—and often, their courtyards.

Puppets as Professors: A New Grammar of Engagement

Dr Mishra is a pioneer of *science communication through puppetry* in India. What began as a creative experiment soon evolved into a movement. He has conducted more than **15 workshops** across the state, from Gorakhpur to Ghaziabad, using traditional puppets to explain modern scientific concepts.

Puppetry, in his hands, becomes a bridge—connecting indigenous storytelling to scientific reasoning. Through skits like "*Vigyan Putul Natika*" and science-based *nukkad nataks* (street plays), he has demystified topics such as sanitation, nutrition, health, pollution, and most recently, COVID-19.

During the pandemic, while cities turned inward, Dr. Mishra took science to villages—creating **bilingual e-content** and awareness drives on the prevention and treatment of the virus. His "Corona Awareness Puppetry Series" became a hit, especially in educationally backward districts like Barabanki, Sitapur, and Kanpur Dehat.

His message was clear: *science is not a privilege—it is a right, and it belongs to all.*

A Communicator Who Builds Communicators

One of Dr Mishra's most far-reaching impacts has been through the **National Children's Science Congress (NCSC)**. Over the years, he has mentored and guided more than **2,000 students** across **20+ districts of Uttar Pradesh**, helping them write, refine, and present research project proposals.

"Children are the real scientists," he says. "All they need is a little encouragement and guidance."

Whether it's rural school students preparing models or tribal children exploring environmental conservation, Dr Mishra's mentorship has been a launchpad for countless budding innovators.

He has also worked with **teacher educators, DIETs, and NGOs** to promote joyful learning techniques—turning science from an examination burden into a celebration of discovery.

Recognition of a Lifelong Mission

Dr Mishra's work has not gone unnoticed. In **2021**, he was awarded the **National Award for Science Popularization** by the **National Council for Science & Technology Communication (NCSTC), DST, Government of India**—one of the highest honours in the field of science outreach.

Over the years, he has earned more than **25 awards**, including:

- **Prof. Sitaram Jaiswal Best Paper Award**
- **Best Presenter Award (2004)**
- **Science Literature Recognition (2022)** by FoS&T, Govt. of India
- **Science Communication Excellence Awards** from various forums

He has also represented India at **13 international conferences**, including those at **IIT Kanpur, INSA New Delhi, BHU Varanasi, and Science City Ahmedabad**—delivering talks on environmental ethics, folk science communication, and innovation in teacher education.

His publications—over **40 research papers** and **16 popular science articles**—are a blend of academic rigor and public relevance. From educational psychology to value education, from comparative pedagogy to environmental activism—his writing spans disciplines but always returns to one goal: societal transformation through science.

A People's Science Platform: From Page to Performance

Apart from his role as an educator, Dr Mishra is an editorial force. He has served as:

- **Executive Editor** of *Shodh Sanchayan* (ISSN refereed journal)
- **Deputy Editor** of *Vigyan Aao Karke Sikhen* (science magazine)
- **Former editor** of *Shaikshik Halchal* (ISSN journal)

His contributions to *Vigyan Pragati* (CSIR's premier science magazine) and ISCOS (Indian Science Communication Society) have helped bring complex ideas into everyday language. He strongly believes in **Hindi** as a medium for science communication and has written extensively on linguistic accessibility in STEM.

Projects, Puppets & Passion: The Triple Axis of Impact

Dr Mishra has led or consulted on **10+ projects**, including:

1. **Science Communication through Puppetry** (2008–09)
2. **Science Awareness Mela** (2018–19)
3. **C.V. Raman Minor Research Projects** (2 phases)
4. **Media and Science Integration Workshops** (ISCOS & NCSTC)

In each of these, the focus has remained unchanged—*connecting science with the people it serves*.

Whether it's handwriting improvement camps in summer vacations, skill development with the Tharu tribes of Bahraich, or folk science demonstrations at the **India International Science Festival (IISF)**—Dr Mishra has been there, often without fanfare, always with purpose.

A Visionary for *Viksit Bharat*

As India marches toward becoming a *Viksit Bharat* by 2047, Dr Vikas Mishra stands out as a grassroots visionary. He is not just spreading scientific literacy but fostering **scientific temperament**—the very foundation of critical thinking and democracy.

“Development isn't only about skyscrapers and satellites,” he says. “It’s about how a child in a village understands why handwashing matters, or how a family sees climate change not as a distant threat, but a local reality.”

His roadmap for the future includes:

- Integrating **folk media with digital platforms** to enhance reach
- Creating a **repository of bilingual science content** for underserved schools
- Training **rural teachers in creative science pedagogy**
- Expanding **district-level science fairs** into community knowledge festivals

He believes that **every school** can be a *science lab*, every teacher a *science communicator*, and every child a *curious explorer*.

Concluding Reflection: A Star Who Lights Many Paths

In a world often dazzled by techno-glamour, Dr Vikas Mishra reminds us of a deeper, quieter kind of brilliance—the kind that shines through consistency, conviction, and community connection.

He is not just a teacher or a communicator—he is a **catalyst**. A man who has turned puppets into platforms, fairs into forums, and students into scientists. As he continues to bring science to life in the most literal of ways, his story inspires a nation striving to be developed not just in infrastructure or economy—but in *awareness, equity, and enlightenment*.

In celebrating **Dr Vikas Mishra** as one of the *Rising Stars of Viksit Bharat*, we recognize not just his achievements, but the ripple effect he has created—an ever-widening circle of informed, inquisitive, and inspired citizens.