



# FIRST QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



## THE GREAT INDIAN TREASURE HUNT BEGINS

The search for the treasure has begun. In the first quarter of 2022 Khoj has successfully completed its pilot project of an adventurous one-month-long learning journey "The Great Indian Treasure Hunt Mini (Orissa Edition)" from 1st to 31st of March 2022 in association with Janamangal one of our partnering organization in Orissa. The journey is designed in a way to help youngsters to experience an inner journey through five zones of emotion: comfort, fear, curiosity, learning and growth. So by the end of journey they could gain knowledge beyond your reality, you will learn to live resourcefully, to work in diverse teams, and to improve self-confidence, tolerance and social skills, and be part of change.

We have received 38 application from across the country out of which we have selected 3 passionate youngsters. Moreover, after discussing with Jyotshanaji (founder of Janamangal) we also included 2 working members of Janamangal Sasmitha and Hemalatha to be a part of the The Indian Treasure Hunt journey to boost their learning.

### ABOUT HOST ORGANIZATION



Since 2014 Janamangal has been working for the upliftment of women affected by domestic violence through women empowerment programs, campaigns, counseling, leadership, independency and entrepreneurship development. During the one month journey you will be involved in various activities like conducting surveys, raising awareness around social issues, creating process for sustainability of projects.



# THE GREAT INDIAN TREASURE HUNT THROUGH IT'S DIFFERENT PHASES

The whole journey was divided into six elements that are taken from the Indian and Chinese cosmic elements: Sky, Water, Fire, Metal, Earth, Air

## SKY: THE DISTANT VISION



This was a three day preparatory phase where Khojjs (participants) took time to know each other and set clear objectives and goals that they would like to achieve by the end of their adventurous learning journey. During this phase, Khojjs has also set protocols for managing conflicts, and a code of conduct was created, which was to be followed by each team member throughout their journey. They were also briefed about the three projects will work on i) To contribute towards making the Sal Leaf bowl production unit efficient and do a market analysis for the same ii) To learn and set up Mushroom cultivation unit iii) To design and deliver an one month long Communicative English and Soft Skills course for students of Tribal Welfare School.



## WATER: SETTING THE FLOW



In Water phase things started move. Khojjs started to visit Self Help Group (SHG) meetings in different communities. They learnt more about the Paddy Straw Mushroom cultivation techniques and also visited the Sal Leaf production unit to understand its working and to analyze how it could be made efficient and economically viable.



## FIRE: ENERGY INTO ACTION



In Fire phase Khojjs got into action. They were actively engaging in all the SHG meeting along with contributing their expertise at the Sal Leaf production unit and at the Tribal welfare school in training them



on communicative English and soft skills. They have trained grade 9 and grade 10 students and have been part of 23 SHG meetings in different villages understanding their problems and further researching on best probable solutions. Based on the study of the Sal Leaf production unit a report concerning the safety measure with production machine was handed to Janamangal.



## METAL: MOULDING PERSONALITIES



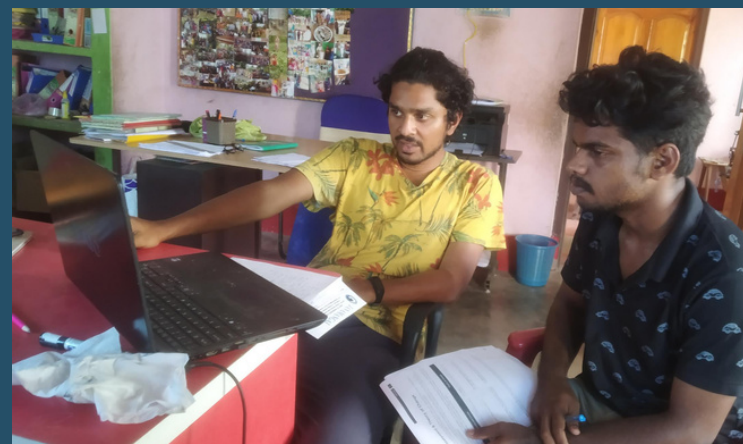
After an intensive 2 week of action comes a reflective phase of 3 days came where Khojis and entire team of Khoj travelled to Kolkata to reflect and celebrate their journey so far. They shared their learnings, experiences and challenges, and create strategies for the rest of the journey.



## EARTH: NURTURING GROWTH



During the Earth phase, Khojis had training on how to measure the Fluoride content in water by the trainers of the India Natural Resource Economics and Management Foundation (INREM). During the training Khojis also learned about how to identify the symptoms of dental and skeletal Fluorosis. Followed by their training they have tested the water resources in 5 villages and also raised awareness among the community members about the symptoms of Fluorosis and how they could prevent themselves from it. During this phase the Khojis had one to one mentoring sessions to enhance and meet the learning objectives that they had set during the sky phase. Khojis were also made to do an online course on Advocacy on the Philanthropy University.



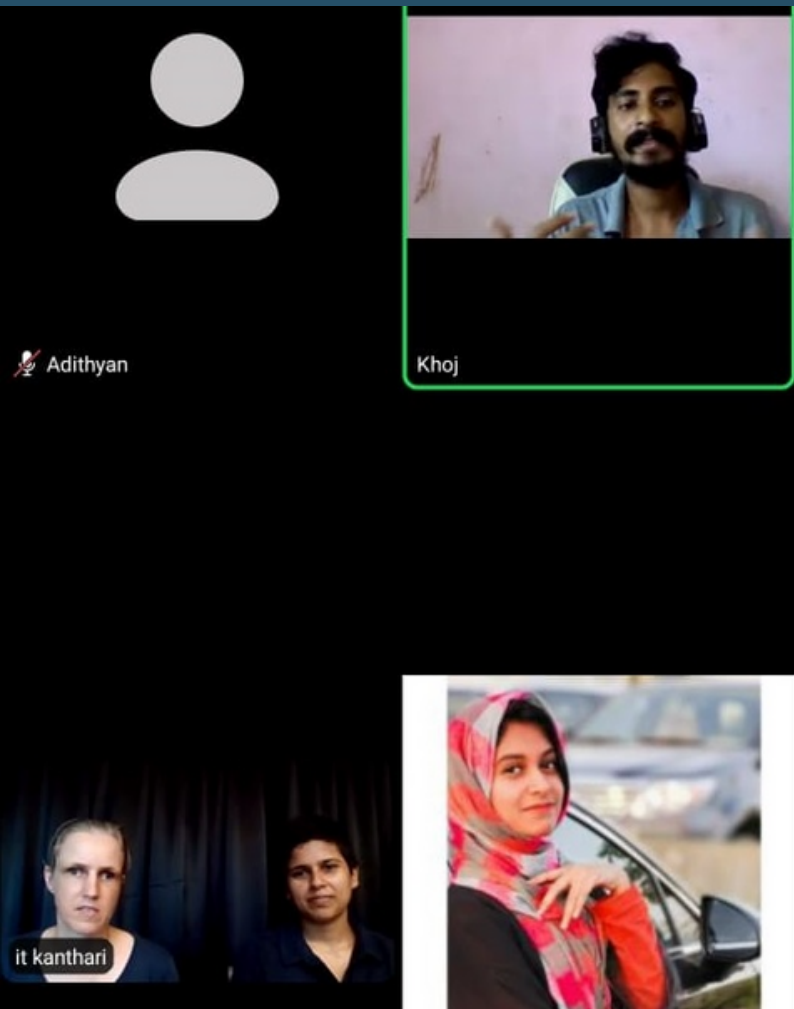
## AIR: FEEL THE SHIFT





During the Air phase Khojis presented their learnings, achievements and challenges through an online live talk Voice of Khoji to a Panelist who were Sabriye Tenberken (Founder of kanthari) and Riya Orison (Catalyst at kanthari). They also answered the critical questions which was followed by their presentation. Post presentation we had team outing to the chandipur beach and had our final debriefing session on how they could apply their learning and share their experience to a larger audience.

Khojis and the entire Team of Khoj attended the Youth Fest 2072 which was held in Kolkata by the Jaladarsha Collective an organization that works for the conservation of water bodies across Kolkata. During the Youth Fest 2072 the Khojis got an opportunity to interact with a diverse set of youngsters who have gathered together to discuss about how the our world will look like in the year 2072 and what will be the role of youth in it. As a part of the program next day Khojis joined the march to the Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC) on the World Water Day to protest against the ignorance of the KMC towards conserving the local water bodies in and around the city. While they also spoke about their findings about the fluoride content in water bodies in the villages of Odisha openly in the presence of the local media reporters.



## YOUTH FEST 2072





# CELEBRATIONS



During the Great Indian Treasure Hunt, we never missed a chance to celebrate. For Khojis every day has been a new story. Khojis also took part in community celebrations which allowed them to understand ethnic cultures better.



Playing sports have also been a best way to get involved with the local community. We also had trekked to mountain top and that had boosted the spirits of the Khojis. We had our debrief session at Chandipur beach which is know for its sprawling stretch of golden sand surrounded by Casuarina trees, pristine waters, and lush coastal vegetation.



# COLLABORATION AND PARTNERSHIP



Collaboration is one of the core values at Khoj. As Khoj works with the organization that are actively working at grassroots level our founder Abhilash John has visited different social organization and have opened the doors of future collaboration.





## UPCOMING PROJECTS



The previous edition of the Great Indian Treasure Hunt have helped the Khojis to come out of their comfort zone and to a new set of perspectives on life and their goals as well as their contribution to the local community and organization has helped them to grow in different ways. Now we are planning to run a 3 month long program followed by a 6 month program in our upcoming editions of the The Great Indian Treasure Hunt with 8 to 16 participants respectively. To know more about the story and philosophy about Khoj watch the founder sharing about inception of Khoj at kanthari talks 2021 or you could also listen to the podcast of founder with Giraffe Heroes Foundation. And to stay updated on future projects follow us on social media like Instagram, LinkedIn and Facebook where we post stories from the Great Indian Treasure Hunt.



## NOTE TO WELL WISHERS AND SUPPORTERS

We would like to express our sincere gratitude for any support that helps us to continue our work. We need your help so that we could create meaningful learning journeys for our youngsters for them to come out of their comfort zone, as well as to support the organizations that are working at the grassroots.

If you enjoyed reading this newsletter, please forward it to others who may be interested.

To know more about Khoj and the work we do or to support us you can write at [connect@khojindia.in](mailto:connect@khojindia.in) or [founder@khojindia.in](mailto:founder@khojindia.in) or call us at +91 7698443039.

With very best regards from the entire Khoj family, stay safe, stay healthy!



**Locked in a cage of constraints and expectations, Abhilash was not able to dream and follow his personal path. A street child helped him to challenge his fears, to set him free to explore his strengths and passions. Through his social venture, Khoj, he offers "the great Indian treasure hunt", An adventurous journey for Indian youngsters to break out of their parent's dreams.**

ABHILASH JOHN AT THE PODCAST TO RESTORE YOUR FAITH IN HUMANITY

