



# Mahatma Gandhi National Fellowship Program

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You must not lose faith in humanity.  
Humanity is an ocean; if a few drops of the ocean are dirty,  
the ocean does not become dirty.



## **EDITORIAL NOTE**

Greetings to the Readers!

It gives us immense pleasure to present you with the 5th edition of the IIMB MGNF newsletter representing the most vibrant 73 Mahatma Gandhi Nation Fellows under IIM Bangalore.

The newsletter is an attempt to summarise and highlight the activities of MGNF, covering multiple stakeholders involved with MGNF operations at various levels. There is no end to exciting events, challenging tasks, and thrilling experiences that have been noted during district immersion by fellows and PMT.

This platform is meant to celebrate the successes and acknowledge the entire team of MGNF for their tremendous effort and great work at the grassroots. We believe that this small effort will help the readers gain a strong perspective and understand the program in and out.

We hope you will enjoy going through the newsletter as much as we enjoyed compiling all the stories from different parts of the country. Thank you for your precious time; we welcome your kind feedbacks and review.

Program Management Team (PMT)  
Centre for Public Policy,  
MGNF, IIMB  
Email: [mgnf@iimb.ac.in](mailto:mgnf@iimb.ac.in)



## **Vision from the Programme Directors, MGNF, IIMB**



"With a little more than 6 months to go the Fellows are all able to engage meaningfully in the districts. Faculty Panel meetings show that Fellows understand their districts quite well and understand its strengths and weakness well. It will be critical to use the final District Immersion to ensure that their projects are institutionalized and carry on once the Fellow leave. It is also the time to reflect on long-term plans for how to ensure that the district's growth process and the parallel skill development can re-enforce each other to foster development for all."

**Professor Arnab Mukherji**

"MGNF phase II now enters a crucial phase, where the fellows are in a position to tie-in and connect their learnings, both academic and in-field, and come up with some coherent and clear questions (if not, answers) related to their districts. These reflections should be the peg around which they write their dissertations"

**Prof. Rajalaxmi Kamath**





## From the Desk of District Mentors



“Mahatma Gandhi national fellowship is a path-breaking initiative of the Ministry of Skill Development in collaboration with various IIMs. It is a mutually beneficial programme for District Administrations as well as young fellows. On the one hand, the District Administration gets benefitted from the infusion of fresh ideas, critical thinking and unique suggestions of MGNFs based on their field visits and on the other hand, MGNFs get good exposure at such a young age of the ground-level issues and institutions. Their interactions with multiple stakeholders in the sector of skill development enrich their knowledge and also helps in career advancement. MGNF in Karnal district is constantly bringing new

ideas and solutions to the table based on her interaction with SHGs, common people, industrialists and other stakeholders. Systematic and organized inputs coupled with possible solutions help the District Administration in formulating a need-based Action plan around skill identification and skill development. This Fellowship encourages and challenges one to absorb, integrate and formulate solutions to major issues. These issues are formidable, but the Fellowship teaches one that they are not insurmountable.”

**Dr Vaishali Sharma, IAS Assistant Deputy Commissioner, Karnal, Haryana**

“The MGNF program is a very significant initiative by the MSDE, Government of India to strengthen the Skill Ecosystem at the District level. Mahatma Gandhi National fellows use a bottom-up approach for understanding ground-level requirements and the learnings from IIM faculty mentors, to offer better developmental perspectives and bring about convergence at the grassroots level. For the holistic development of 'Skill Ecosystem' in the State of Goa, all the necessary support for the projects and initiatives led by MGNF fellow is provided in support with the Directorate of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Govt. of Goa and other stakeholders.”



**Shri Jeetendra Bugde, Mamlatdar in Collectorate, South Goa, Goa**



## Guidance from Faculty Mentors

Two IIMB faculty mentors have been allocated to each Fellow to guide them during District Immersions. The fellows have virtual meetings with their faculty panel to discuss their ongoing projects and future plans. They also seek guidance regarding academic components like workshops and final dissertation/ growth plan. Since the inception of the program till April 2023, six rounds of Faculty Panel interactions have been conducted for each fellow virtually. During the Academic Modules at IIMB Campus, District Indicator workshop, Livelihood workshop and Market and Economy workshop were organised where Fellows presented their findings and learnings from respective districts to their Faculty Panel and the entire MGNF cohort under IIMB. The faculty panel mentors acts as a bridge between the IIMB learning ecosystem and the Fellows during the District Immersion.



“The MGNF program is a good example of the utilisation of a University/Institute's infrastructure to implement a government-led initiative. Often this kind of partnership is mired in delays, ineffective execution and can cause miscommunication between these significant stakeholders. However, the MGNF model is unique and a great success story of the coming together of these two entities.

As a faculty mentor for fellows situated in two states and 4 districts in the country, and having visited their districts, I can confidently say that the

MGN fellows have made significant in-roads, amazing networks and have been able to embody this grassroots experience while being firmly entrenched in the academic modules and the roadmap it lays out.”

**Professor Deepti Ganapathy , Chairperson- Centre for Management Communication IIM Bangalore**

“It has been a wonderful experience teaching the Fellows of the MGNF program. The Fellows come from backgrounds that are as diverse as India, and they offer deep insights, through their own lived experiences, into the real challenges facing the country's development. In some sense, it sheds light beyond the highways of development, into the dark and often less-treaded alleys.”

**Professor Ritwik Banerjee Centre for Public Policy (CPP)-  
Secondary Member IIM Bangalore**



## Initiatives of the Program Team, MGNF, IIMB

### SHG Product Exhibition during Yamini 2023 at IIM Bangalore

The 19th edition of Yamini – the flagship classical music and art concert was hosted at IIM Bangalore, on the eve of Republic Day, at the initiative of SPIC MACAY IIM Bangalore chapter. This year a special attraction that caught hold of the eyes of visitors was the collaboration with Mahatma Gandhi National Fellowship (MGNF) Programme, for organizing an “exhibition-cum-trade show” featuring handcrafted, sustainable items from each of the six states where MGNF has a presence. This was done with the intention of understanding urban consumers' perceptions and views towards unique products from rural and tribal areas.

It provided a platform to the 73 MGN Fellows, closely working with the district skill and entrepreneurship ecosystem for the last one year, to showcase diverse skills and expertise of people from a wide spectrum of societies/communities they have come across and engaged with. Some of these skills are traditional and considered to be indigenous knowledge of the community and deserve recognition and marketing exposure. The exhibition was an attempt to showcase products covering 6 states. It gave an idea about the perceptions of urban consumers on products made by women SHGs, tribal communities, and others; while simultaneously generating awareness regarding the indigenous skill sets and craftsmanship, that exist at the grassroots across various districts in India.



*A group of Fellows during presentation of group work*



## Meeting with SANKALP Team at MSDE office, New Delhi

The Program Managers visited the MSDE office in New Delhi on 10th February 2023. They met Mr. Manish Mishra, Assistant Director SANKALP and shared feedback on multiple components of program delivery that includes engagement of the Fellows in districts, submission of required reports and documents, supporting program team of member IIMs, coordination with SSDMs, and supporting other activities around the skilling ecosystem. They also discussed how to make the program more effective and have a good impact on the ground. Program Managers updated on workshop planned with Program Teams of all partner IIMs that would be helpful in framing a set of future activities. Mr. Mishra appreciated the efforts made by the IIMB program team.

The Program Managers also met other representatives from NIMI and its PMU and shared thoughts in connection to the program. They also visited Mr. Santanu Mitra, Sr. Economic Advisor, Ministry of Corporate Affairs and discussed the involvement of the Fellows with the MSME network at the district level.



*Program Managers, MGNF, IIMB with Officials in Delhi*





## Planning & Way Forward Workshop at IIM Jammu-Srinagar campus

As IIMB anchors the entire MGNF Program at the national level, the program team also manages the functions of the MGNF Coordination Committee. Mr. Paritosh Pathak, Program Manager IIMB, organized a workshop for Program Teams from all member IIMs. The workshop was held on the 20th & 21st of March 2023, in the beautiful valley of Srinagar, where the off-campus of IIM Jammu is located. The purpose of the workshop was to share the experiences and lessons learnt so far from the delivery of the program and then formulate a comprehensive plan for managing the program in a more effective manner.

As the program ends in October 2023, it was crucial to have some collaborative work that would be helpful in collecting nationwide data and information related to skilling and employment. This data and information will be accessible to all member IIMs for further studies and research work. Mr. Pathak facilitated the workshop and all participants collectively worked on formulating an action plan that would be followed as the program proceeds with the final set of district immersion modules.



*Program Team from all partner IIMs during workshop at IIM Jammu, Srinagar*



## Engagement with State Skill Development Missions

### Enriching experience of working with Karnataka Skill Development Corporation Ashish Shetty, MGNF, Chikkaballapur, Karnataka

After spending almost a year in the districts, the Mahatma Gandhi National Fellows of Karnataka had the opportunity to work with the State Skill Development Mission – Karnataka Skill Development Corporation in Bengaluru. The idea was to leverage the experiences at the grassroots level to streamline processes at the State level and provide the fellows with exposure to working at the SSDM. MGN Fellow Ashish Shetty during Global Investors Meet and Bangalore Tech Summit Over the course of two months, Ashish had the opportunity to work on drafting the new Karnataka Skill Policy. This included incorporating the best practices from various educational and vocational training programmes across the world and different states of India, along with the analysis of the Karnataka Economic Survey, Industrial Policy, NSSO Reports and NHFS reports. He coordinated the meeting with representatives of all the Sector Skill Councils, where we discussed Job Role Centric Career Progression, improvements in Assessments, and also coming with demand-based training with a particular focus on placements.

KSDC has developed the Karnataka Skill Connect Portal and Ashish worked extensively on providing feedback on the features before its launch. He provided ideas for marketing the portal and mobilising candidate registrations using the existing network and administrative setup. It is a dynamic and evolving portal, and he has been continuously working with the team to evaluate various vendors, ideas, features, and platforms that can be integrated to provide a better experience for candidates and employers.

MGN Fellows also represented KSDC in the Global Investors Meet and Bangalore Tech Summit held in Bangalore, spreading awareness about the schemes and initiatives and looking for potential collaboration with Industry partners. Karnataka Cohort Fellows with MD and Officials from KSDC The Viksit Bharat conference was a unique opportunity to work with various stakeholders in the skilling ecosystem in Karnataka and Secretaries, Administrators and Officials from 20 other States and UTs who were part of the Quality in Skill Training theme.

Overall, it was a very enriching experience to understand how the policy is formulated at the State level and how the initiatives are planned considering all the perspectives and implementing them at the district level.



*MGN Fellow Ashish Shetty during Global Investors Meet and Bangalore Tech Summit*



*Karnataka Cohort Fellows with MD and Officials from KSDC*



## Level -1 of World Skill Competition at Uttarakhand Skill Development Mission (UKSDM), Dehradun

### Sprouting the Roots of Skill Development at Panchayat Level

Fellows from Chamoli and Uttarkashi got a chance to witness Level 1 of the World skill competition to be held in France in 2024. The competition is initially held at the state level, then at the regional level, then at the national level, and ultimately, qualifying candidates go for the international competition. The fellows along with SRA, Anjali Sood, came down to the Institute of Hotel Management, Dehradun to attend the technical round of Baking and Cooking skills. The experience was very enriching for the entire team as they got to see the skills of the young candidates trained under various Skill Development training in the state. Uttarakhand fellows and SRA with Officials from UKSDM and NSDC Uttarakhand fellows during Baking competition held at IHM, Dehradun

The fellows also met UKSDM officials including Secretary UKSDM and NSDC officials and discussed further activities they can be engaged in with UKSDM. The discussion held with these officials was insightful and gave a larger picture of how skill training and skilled students are representing India on a global level.



*Uttarakhand fellows and SRA with Officials from UKSDM and NSDC*



*Uttarakhand fellows during Baking competition held at IHM, Dehradun*



## Review meeting at Haryana Skill Development Mission, Panchkula

A meeting was held in Haryana Skill Development Mission (HSDM), Panchkula, under the chairmanship of Commissioner Sh. Vijay Dhaliya, IAS and MD Sh. Dheeraj Garg, IRS on 14.12.2022. The fellows gave a brief overview of the active Skill trainings going on, activities undertaken by them and the status of various Skilling schemes in their respective districts. Discussions were also held regarding futuristic skill trainings that can be initiated in districts.



*Haryana MGNF Cohort during meeting at HSDM, Panchkula*

## Review meeting with Tripura State Skill Development Mission

On February 10, 2023, a review meeting was conducted at the State Skill Development Mission (SSDM), Directorate of Skill Development (DSD), Government of Tripura (GoT) under the chairmanship of Mr. Abhisekh Chandra, IAS, Secretary, Industries and Commerce, Government of Tripura. 6 fellows joined the meeting where the Special Secretary interacted with all the Fellows individually to assess the status of the district skill and entrepreneurship ecosystem and the possible allocation of work for each Fellow in the concerned district.



*Tripura MGNF Cohort during meeting at SSDM*



## Stories from the Districts

### Formation of NGO Cell in only aspirational district of Haryana- Nuh, Haryana



As known the role of NGOs is dynamic across various components of development. Sonam Yadav, MGNF has been able to constitute NGO cell in Mewat Development Agency, Nuh to understand the reach and effect of their work in the aspirational district Nuh. The purpose of this cell is to manage the work of NGOs in Nuh as well as to have proper coordination among NGOs, Government departments, and District Administration.

Regular review meetings for this NGO cell are held under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner, Nuh. In these meetings, various NGOs working in Nuh give presentations regarding their progressive work in the district. These NGOs are working with District administration to make sustainable improvements in the field of Education, Empowerment, Health & Nutrition, Skill development & Livelihood, etc. MGNF is working closely with the NGOs, CSRs, and Foundations working for strengthening the skill ecosystem of the district.



*Review meetings for NGO cell, Nuh under the Chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner*



## ITI Mega Career Counseling - Mahendargarh, Haryana



Nitin Kumar, MGNF has been working with Mahendragarh districts government ITIs for the past year in various capacities i.e preparation of the proposal for drone pilot & drone technician course in nodal ITI Narnaul, project PARAMARSH for preparing an industrial directory for ITI students and establishing an alumni network for Government ITI, etc. During all this time interacting with the ITIs one major observation from his side was that these ITI students have a lot of potential for the industrial job market but all they need is proper career counselling; due to funding restraints organizing such events at the district level was a big challenge.

With his continuous efforts, Nitin was able to identify some funds parked with the Nehru Yuva Kendra for youth guidance programs. He urged the District Youth Officer and Additional Deputy Commissioner to utilize these funds and pitched the idea of a mega Career counselling session for all govt. ITIs of the district and got all the necessary approvals from the District Administration.

Finally, on 27/02/2023 the first of its kind Mega career counselling for these ITI was organized at the district Auditorium Narnaul. The program was organized under the guidance of ADC Mahendragarh Ms Vaishali Singh IAS and Nehru Yuva Kendra Narnaul. The team of CSRBOX implementation partners of the IBM skill build initiative also imparted their guidance to the students.

Nitin was awarded the guest of honour award by ADC Mahendragarh for organizing such a program and for his specially curated session on self-assessment for ITI students.



*Mega career counselling for ITIs at Narnaul*



*MGNF Nitin Kumar being felicitated by ADC, Mahendragarh*





## Kushal Utsav: District level Skill exhibition cum competition - Charkhi Dadri, Haryana



Swati Aggarwal, MGNF has been closely working with the Samagra Siksha Abhiyan, to streamline vocational education courses as means of skill development and to mitigate the impact of learning poverty owing to COVID-19. In this lieu, a district-level, Kushal Utsav: Skill Exhibition-cum-competition was organised on 06 December 2022, where she was invited as the 'Guest of Honour'. Skill exhibition cum competition organised in Charkhi Dadri, Haryana.

Kushal Utsav provided a platform for the trainees, to showcase working models of their learnings. The continuous efforts of district administration and MGNF, combined with regular monitoring yielded great results and the students showcased models in the form of a solar-powered rickshaw, electric bike, working models of dialysis and CPR, ATM machines, and many more. The platform worked as a source of motivation for trainees to further develop their skills while also, being an important area for the district administration to assess the scope of further interventions required.

MGN Fellow is further, aiming at possibilities to provide greater placement opportunities to these young minds while streamlining the scope of vocational education in the district and making them market-ready.



*Skill exhibition cum competition organised in Charkhi Dadri, Haryana*



## Shivarapatna - The Land of God Manufacturers - Kolar, Karnataka



In ancient times the stone sculpting activity in Shivarapatna, a village located at Malur Taluq of Kolar district was practised only by the Vishwakarma community who were large in numbers, Idol sculpting involved carefully following of steps mentioned in Shilpashastra which includes reciting the right mantras, pouring his soul into the idol and proper selection of date/days to start marking on the stone.

Over a period of time with an increase in demand and commercialisation, now 80% of the total village is engaged in this activity. Further interacting with the community, Mahatma Gandhi National Fellow of Kolar was able to observe & identify some drawbacks i.e. low labour productivity due to lack of use of modern techniques, informal skill transfer and so on.

MGNF Shreenandan at the Stone Sculpting Cluster Stone sculptor in Kolar, Karnataka Shreenandan HS, MGNF in the Kolar District is working closely with them for empanelling the existing infrastructure in the village under the PMKVY/CMKKY scheme so that there is continuous training, wider dissemination of the use of modern equipment and use of technological solutions. He is also working on a proposal to establish the craft park in Kolar.



Stone sculptor in Kolar, Karnataka



MGNF Shreenandan at the Stone Sculpting Cluster



## Empowering Women in Businesses - South Goa, Goa



With a focus on empowering women in businesses, Shama Kamble, MGNF in collaboration with Entrepreneurship Skill Development Program (ESDP) of the Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME) conducted a Skill Development Training Program for the women beneficiaries from Curchorem, South Goa, Goa. The training covered a comprehensive range of essential business skills and critical topics such as entrepreneurship, marketing strategies, pricing techniques, and leveraging online and digital marketing platforms to reach a broader range of audiences.

Additionally, beneficiaries gained valuable insights about using online payment methods, fraud prevention, and how to create a 'Google Business

Page' to increase engagement and visibility. The training included sessions designed to boost participants' self-confidence, ensuring they leave with the necessary tools and knowledge to succeed in their ventures. The beneficiaries are now better equipped to start their own venture and thrive in the competitive world of entrepreneurship.



*MGNF Shama with beneficiaries of skill development training program*





## Promotion of sustainable livelihood through development of value chain for forest produce -Nabarangpur, Odisha



Nabarangpur is blessed with high production of raw lacquer. But due to a lack of marketing and relevant skills in design and development, the raw materials are presently exported to Chhattisgarh and other states. Lacquer making has been an indigenous craft of the Sankhari community for decades, and other communities are also involved in raw material processing. Emphasis on modern design, packaging, and branding can generate sustainable livelihood for the communities, particularly for women

Tapaswini Das, MGNF submitted a special project to MSDE for the development of lacquer craft, also approved by the District Collector. She

arranged the visits of MSDE officials to the lacquer craft units and received suggestions for the marketing of lacquer craft. Now she is working with GEM Portal and Walmart Vridhhi for marketing of lacquer craft products. The development of the Lacquer value chain and promotion of local artisans can play a major role in improving the livelihoods of Nabarangpur's youth and women.



*MGNF Tapaswini along with Officials*



*Finished products made using lacquer craft*



## The Skilling Program's Flexibility in Adding Industry Demand Job Roles - Keonjhar, Odisha



Keonjhar is well-known for its enormous mineral resources, which account for around 60% of the district's overall revenues. This sector has a large potential for local employment, but a lack of skilling programmes in this domain has been the biggest impediment for years. Pulak Jena, MGNF noticed this and during an interaction with TATA's HR Manager learnt that there are statutory needs for mining mates, blasters, and mining operators every year. Due to a lack of trained labour, they hire individuals from outside the state. After visiting three other large Mining industries, it became clear to him that each mine has the same requirement and all of them pass through the same difficulties in acquiring manpower in the same trades. The statistics showed a mismatch

between the supply and demand for skilled labour; with ITI Principals concerned about poor placement rates on one hand and local companies struggling to find skilled labour on the other.

MGNF Pulak with District Officials With the pursuit of introducing the aforementioned job roles, Fellow discovered that the District Mineral Foundation had funds to spend on skill development programmes, but lacked the necessary infrastructure and processes. In order to capitalise resources of DMF, he launched a project by engaging with the Mining Sector Skill Council and submitted a DPR describing the district's unique skill deficit. The fellow then scheduled a meeting with Mining SSC, Line department officials, and DMF to bring all possible stakeholders of this project together on the same platform. Following the discussion, Mining SSC developed a plan for the district that covered all 10 key employment positions. The District Mineral Foundation agreed to invest in this project after acquiring placement assurance from Mining SSC.

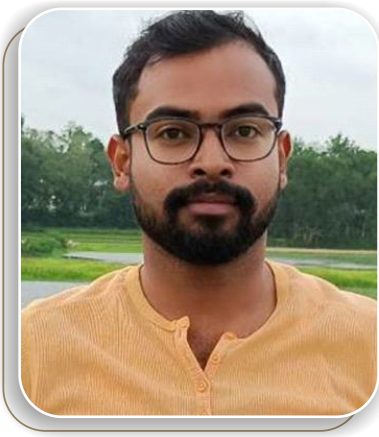


*MGNF Pulak with District Officials*





## Soft skill sensitization initiative to local youths for livelihood - Gomati, Tripura



Ashis Paul, MGNF is actively working in the tourism sector as tourism has the potential to be a significant source of sustainable livelihood in Gomati and is also the ODOP of the district. The region's natural beauty, rich culture, and unique history & historical shreds of evidence can attract domestic and international tourists, creating employment opportunities and boosting regional economic growth. To harness this natural resource & opportunity, MGNF in collaboration with Directorate of Skill Development and Directorate of Tourism organised a 'Soft Skills' training workshop for local youths residing around tourism areas. Starting from the Chabimura tourist destination cum picnic site (popularly known as the 'Amazon of Tripura') trained 43 local youth from the 'HACHWK MWTAI -

Jamatia Hoda' society who all are managing Chabimura tourist properties. People who participated in the workshop were from profiles like the society management committee, auto/car drivers, chefs, hotel owners, cleaning staff, boat drivers, and hawkers. They were taught about a set of personal attributes that enable individuals to interact effectively with others, such as communication skills & greeting gestures, teamwork for smooth functioning and managing a bunch of guests to make their experience memorable, adaptability to any weather conditions, fluctuating visitor numbers, sudden changes in customer needs, instant friendship with new people, and on spot problem-solving attitude. In the tourism sector, soft skills play a critical role in delivering excellent customer service and enhancing the overall visitor experience & positive feedback, which will increase tourist frequency exponentially, which the Skill Directorate, the Directorate of Tourism, and MGNF want to achieve through these Soft Skill sensitization workshops.



*MGNF Ashis during Sensitization workshop on Soft Skill for Local Youth around Tourism Spots of Tripura*





## Rural entrepreneurship: A blessing of women empowerment - Unakoti, Tripura



Subhasis Mondal, MGNF has been working with Yeazekhowra SHG Village Federation located in Tripura's Unakoti district in the Yeazekhowra village of Gournagar Block ever since his deployment in the district. This federation is composed of 30 SHGs and among them, seven ambitious women SHGs planned to launch their businesses.

After several meetings with the SHG, it was decided that the women would work with spices, the brand name would be 'Unakoti Guro Masala' and the enterprise will deal with Coriander, red chilli, Cumin & Garam masala. Various brainstorming meetings helped in developing a clear idea, and the execution took place quickly. In this quick process, the fellow

helped the enterprise get a trade license and an FSSAI license and simultaneously, the fellow worked on developing packaging and marketing for the SHG products. Member working on grinding of spices

Packaging of products of Yeazekhowra SHG Village Federation

In addition to these, the majority of the women working in the 7 SHGs are involved in operations, sales, and manufacturing. They are also able to manage their finances and track their performance. These qualities help SHG women expand their businesses by improving productivity, relations with customers, and profitability. These women are now truly an inspiration in the field of rural entrepreneurship.



*Packaging of products of Yeazekhowra SHG Village Federation*



*Member working on grinding of spices*



## District Visit by IIMB Faculty, Program Directors and Program Management Team

### Field Visit to Tripura by IIMB Program Director

Prof. Rajalaxmi Kamath, IIMB, Program Director, MGNF visited all 7 districts of Tripura where MGNFs are present from 5th November 2022 to 11th November 2022. During this period Prof. Kamath visited the State Skill Development Mission office of Tripura and had discussions with Ms. Sutirtha Paul, Joint Director, DSD, GoT and Ms. Supriti Chakrabarty, Team Leader, DSD along with the SRA regarding the status of MGNFs appointed in the state of Tripura. Joint Director shared insights on how the expertise of the Fellows can be utilized by the Industries & Commerce Department for the planning of skill and entrepreneurship development initiatives in the state. Professor also met with the district mentors of 5 fellows and noted the performance and activities of the Fellows in their respective districts.

To get a glimpse of the various projects and activities where the Fellows are engaged in the districts, she also visited local handloom and handicraft centers in Dhalai, Khowai and West Tripura and attended Skill Mela, Job Mela, and Loan Mela of Gomati, Rural Mart in Dhalai, met with Skill Ambassadors of Khowai district, and Vanghmun village which is Tripura's cleanest village and is famous for its orange varieties in North Tripura. Further, she had a brief interaction with Mr. Sanjay Chakrabarty, Director, DSD, GoT to understand the overview of the MGNF program in the state and received feedback about the performance of the Fellows in their respective districts.





## Field Visit to Chikkamagaluru by Faculty Mentor

Faculty Mentor Professor Deepti Ganapathy visited MGNF Srinidhi Gurunath's district of immersion, Chikkamagaluru. The visit was aimed to engage with stakeholders the fellow has been associated with for a year, guide the fellow and streamline new potential proposals.

The faculty met with Narendra N Kumar of NG Fruits, Sachidananda Nayak of Vajra Biotech and Sakrepatna Jackfruit Forum to showcase ongoing efforts by entrepreneurs under MSME Department to minimize the wastage of Jackfruit through value additions and cold chain supply development. The fellow is working with the Sakrepatna Jackfruit Forum on a customised skill course for agriculture-allied communities.

On day two, the fellow facilitated interaction with honey and NTFP gathering tribal members of the Koppa LAMPS Co-operative Society and a visit to the LAMPS Honey Processing Center. The interaction during the visit shed light on addressing mismatches in the demand and supply of honey within the cooperative through skill training. It also laid a foundation for a proposal based on NTFP collection and localised effects of Climate Change on the Tribal communities. Fellow and Faculty Mentor interact with the Chikkamagaluru District Skill Development Officer. Interaction with the members of the Lamps Co-operative at Gangana Saralu, Koppa, Chikkamagaluru District

Post a brief meeting with the District Skill Development Officer about the contribution and role the MGNF has played in the department, the faculty also met with the DCF of Bhadra Tiger Reserve who has been working with the fellow for a pilot project on building capacity in the district for Nature Guides for eco-tourism. The discussion entailed the future prospectus of the skill training and also the involvement of concepts of the Village Forest Committee for new projects.



*Interaction with the members of the Lamps Co-operative at Gangana Saralu, Koppa, Chikkamagaluru District*



*Fellow and Faculty Mentor interact with the Chikkamagaluru District Skill Development Officer*





## Field Visit by the Program Management Team

Debadatta Das, the State Resource Associate (SRA) from the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Bangalore visited Rayagada district along with Pragya Ashna, the State Resource Associate (SRA) on the 22nd of February 2023 to monitor the progress of MGNF program and meet with the MGN Fellow of the district. The purpose of the visit was to evaluate the work being done by the MGNF in the district and to provide guidance and support where necessary. During the visit, the SRA met with key stakeholders to discuss the progress made so far, as well as the challenges and opportunities for further development.

Similar visits were made also made by Paritosh Pathak, PM and Anjali Sood, SRA in Haryana and Uttarakhand, Guruprasad Karnam, PM in Karnataka and Goa and Santanu Bhowmick, SRA in Tripura.



*Pragya Ashna and Debdutta Das along with fellow visiting Mushroom PC in Nayagarh Discussion held with Sh. Sahil Gupta, ADC, Jind, SRA, Ms Anjali Sood and MGNF, Mr Hitesh regarding the scope of Skill development in the district*



*Program Manager, Sh. Paritosh Pathan being felicitated during visit to Jhajjar, Haryana*



*Pragya Ashna and Debdutta Das along with fellow visiting Mushroom PC in Nayagarh*



*Anjali Sood, SRA and Ms. Nisha, MGNF Karnal in discussion with Instructor, Govt. ITI Karnal*



*Program Manager, Sh. Paritosh Pathak along with officials and students and MGNF Sirsa, Mr. Abhishek Gujaral*



*Pragya Ashna and Debdutta Das visiting Tomato and Chilly Processing Plant in Ganjam along with Fellow*

## Other Activities



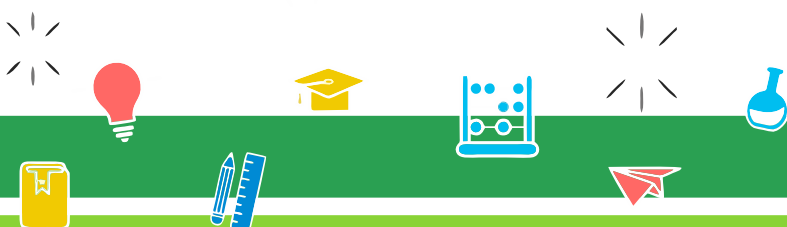
**1.** With an aim to make India a developed nation by 2047, the Viksit Bharat Abhiyan was launched by the Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi. The 2nd National Chief Secretaries' Conference, was held from 5th to 7th January 2023, also has "Viksit Bharat - Reaching the Last Mile" as the overarching theme for the conference.

This workshop was preceded by a stakeholder consultation workshop at the state level on 5th November 2022, where

advice on policy recommendations, operational hiccups, and other avenues were sought from various heads of institutions across the industry, academia, and the training ecosystem.

The Mahatma Gandhi National Fellows of Karnataka were greatly involved and contributed to the preparation of the theme paper by actively engaging with the stakeholders and facilitating the Principal Secretaries' Workshop as State Liaison Officers representing the Karnataka Skill Development Corporation.

**2.** Rahul Saini (MGNF Panipat), Swati Aggarwal (MGNF Charkhi Dadri), and Dr Debadatta Das (SRA, Odisha) presented a Paper during the Third International Conference on Maintenance and Intelligent Asset Management (ICMIAM 2022), held at Institute of Rural Management Anand, Gujarat on the topic 'Recognising and strengthening assets of tribal India for realising Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)'.







**3.** Ms. Gargi Sur, MGNF, North Tripura District, IIMB, and Mr. Santanu Bhowmick, State Resource Associate, IIMB, Tripura jointly presented a research paper titled: Changing pattern of rural market and new possibilities of youth employment – An overview of North Tripura District, Tripura State during the 63rd Labour Economics Conference organized by The Indian Society of Labour Economics (ISLE), at Rajiv Gandhi University, Rono Hills, Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh from 1st March to 3rd March 2023.

**4.** Sonam Yadav and Rahul Saini, MGN Fellows of Nuh and Panipat district of Haryana, addressed the students of UID Delhi NCR on 10th February 2023. The interaction was about administrative challenges at grassroot settings and to galvanize the skilling sector of India. Fellows also discussed how Design students can help upgrade SHGs products to trend and how ODOP of Nuh district, which is apparel, can be promoted with these efforts.



**5.** Sobhit Kumar Bishi, MGNF, Jajpur participated in Sustainable Development Goal (SDGs) Workshop at the district level by MGNF, Jajpur. The group presentation was made on different goals keeping Skill Development at the backdrop. In the workshop a plan of Action was proposed, keeping skill development at the centre in order to meet the SDG goals of the district.

**6.** Tripura cohort was invited by Mr Abhishek Chandra, IAS, Secretary, Department of Industries and Commerce & Special Secretary to the Government of Tripura to attend the Regional Workshop organised by the Ministry of Social Justice, Government of India where representatives from 16 states of India were present. Regarding the Skill ecosystem, it was an eye-opening experience for the MGNF team to learn about the various initiatives by the Government (State and Central) for developing skills among SC, ST, transgender, and other marginalized (like Manual Scavengers) communities of the country.







**7.** India has assumed the G20 Presidency for 2023, with the theme “Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam”. Drawing inspiration from the Hon'ble Prime Minister's call to make “Jana Bhagidari” a vital element of India's G20 Presidency, to make these events successful, a Project Monitoring Unit was formed by Joint Secretary Shri K K Dwivedi and Madam Sonal Mishra, MSDE, to monitor the Jan Bhagidari events of G20 and reporting. The Odisha MGNF cohort is tasked with monitoring and reporting from each district covering all the participating

Institutes. They are also submitting photographs of the events on a daily basis to the RDSDE, Bhubaneswar, as desired by the Ministry. All the fellows of Odisha are monitoring the event and submitting the assigned work per the reporting format.

**8.** MGNF cohort of Tripura attended the North-East Zonal Conference on Gatishakti - National Logistic Policy organized by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India, in collaboration with the Government of Tripura. Top-level government functionaries from the state and central, representatives of central ministries, and Fellows attended the event. The major theme of the discussion revolved around the



impact of hassle-free travel, movement of products and services, and removal of infrastructural barriers can lead to the reduction of logistic costs.



**9.** A state-level workshop was organized by the Directorate of Skill Development, Government of Tripura where top-level government functionaries from various departments, representatives of universities, colleges, ITI, and professionals from the skill and entrepreneurship ecosystem. All MGN Fellows attended the workshop. The overarching theme of the conference was "Viksit Bharat - Reaching the Last Mile" where the house initiated the discussion on how the existing skilling

ecosystem can reach the last mile for inclusive growth and job creation as a significant indicator of Human development for all.



## Fellows Speak



"MGNF provided me with a fantastic opportunity to work at the grassroots level to the best of my abilities. I gained practical experience by working closely with the district administration on policy implementation, associated issues, and the ground realities. My interactions with various stakeholders not only sharpened my understanding but also gave me a holistic view of the skill development scenario in the district and helped me find bottlenecks to plan informed interventions."

**Anjali Rani, MGNF, Jhajjar, Haryana**

"It is a privilege and pleasure to be a part of such a wonderful cohort. Through this fellowship, I've gained invaluable experience in project management, community engagement, and leadership. I've been able to work collaboratively with stakeholders from diverse backgrounds from both public and private institutions and understand their perspective while working towards a common goal, i.e., skilling. I believe I can continue to positively impact society from my learnings here in the fellowship."



**Aditya Kutiyal, MGNF, Yamunanagar, Haryana**



"MGNF and IIM Bangalore are important bright aspects in broadening the learning horizon of fellows and catering to the intended objective of this fellowship. Exploring my allotted district through interactions with various stakeholders and by contributing to the skill ecosystem and formulating a potential district growth plan, there has been an immense boost to my knowledge development and future career path with a great experience."

**Debasis Acharya, MGNF, Khorda, Odisha**

"As a statistician, MGNF provides me with the platform to play a critical role in providing insights and recommendations based on data analysis; I used my skills in data analysis which I applied to various domains and fields, to make an informed decision and drive progress. Under this program, I Submitted eight projects for multiple departments, DSDP, Skill Gaps and its appropriate solution, Demand estimation report, etc, Monthly articles are also an excellent way to communicate my findings and analysis to a broader audience."

**Debabrata Dash, MGNF, Mayurbhanj, Odisha**





## Snapshots from the District Immersion



*Rahul Saini, MGNF, Panipat and Anjali Sood, SRA at Kaushal Utsav organised for NSQF Schools. The competition is organised to provide greater practical and technical exposure to students for a better understanding of their vocational subjects.*

*Nisha, MGNF, Karnal liaised between SHG and MSME and as a result a four-week long skill training on food preservation and processing was conducted.*



*Shailja Santore, MGNF, Chamol, Uttarakhand organised Lantana furniture training program in district Chamoli for SHG women. Around 40 SHG women participated in a 15 day training to learn crafts and furniture from Lantana*



*To introduce SHGs of Kurukshetra to new markets, Anupriya, MGNF, Kurukshetra, Haryana with support of the District Administration and HSRLM initiated participation of SHG women in Crafts Fair at Punjab Heritage Festival, Punjab*





## Snapshots from the District Immersion



*Shweta, MGNF Rohtak in collaboration with Royal society of Chemistry organised 'Yusuf Hamied Professional Science Development Programme' for the science teachers of government schools of Rohtak.*

*Megha Aggarwal, MGNF Deogarh is working on ODOP of District. A training workshop was organised for Tribal women of the district for the same.*



*Prarthana, MGNF Cuttack collaborated with Jan Shiksha Sansthan to organised training camps to promote financial literacy among SHGs*

*Sai Kiran, MGNF, Davanagere, Karnataka mobilising candidates for World Skills competition*



## Participation in YUVA SANGAM under 'Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat'



Four fellows from Haryana Cohort visited Mizoram in collaboration with IIM Rohtak and NIT Mizoram



MGNF, Khowai, Tripura interacting with Governor, Tamil Nadu during the visit



MGNF, Jagatsinghpur, Odisha sharing her experience with DD Gangtok



State Resource Associate felicitated at Manipur University during Yuva Sangam visit









MGNF, IIM Bangalore,  
Bannerghatta Road, Bengaluru 560076.



+91 80 26993856



<https://www.iimb.ac.in/mgnf>



[mgnf@iimb.ac.in](mailto:mgnf@iimb.ac.in)