

INTRODUCING THE FELLOWS

52 PARINDEY FELLOWSHIP 2022-23



Agnus Mariya Antony
Idukki, Kerala



Ankita Marwaha
New Delhi, Delhi



Dheeraj K.
Raipur, Chhattisgarh



Kavya Chinda
Hyderabad, Telangana



Lalita Suryawanshi
Dhamtari, Chhattisgarh



Rahul Rahangdale
Nagpur, Maharashtra



Smriti
Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh



Zehra Ali Khan
Kolkata, West Bengal



Agnus Mariya Antony
Idukki, Kerala



Maitri Bhoomi



swacardz

Agnus was born and brought up in the Idukki district of Kerala. Born in a farming family, she has always been enthusiastic about nature. She pursued Botany for graduation and completed her Masters in Environmental Science from Cochin University. She follows a minimalistic lifestyle, is always up for travelling and has done solo travel on a low budget across India. She is a [workaway.info](https://www.workaway.info) volunteer and a couchsurfer too.

During the pandemic induced lockdown, she happened to be a part of the Haritha Keralam Mission by the Government of Kerala, where she helped local self-government institutions in Idukki district with a decentralised mode of waste management system, water conservation, and organic farming. She helped to formulate and capacitate Haritha Karma Sena, which is a Kudumbasree woman microenterprise for door-to-door collection and management of non-biowaste at LSGD level, which helped her to learn about inclusive and grassroot level solutions for environmental issues, circular economy, etc.

Recently, she was selected as a Climate Leader-2022 from Idukki by the Sustera Foundation, which gave her more opportunities to organise on-field and social media activities on climate action. She believes that reaching out to people who are pursuing alternative and sustainable livelihoods and learning from them is an urgent need. Her dream is to experience different geographies and ecosystems, which would help to learn more inclusive solutions for environmental issues.



Ankita Marwaha
New Delhi, Delhi

Ankita is a Jill of all trades, a specialised expert of none. Her journey has been one of searching for what not to do – she has had her name enrolled in seven colleges but finished only three degrees. She worked as a journalist in Delhi and Mumbai for three years where she wrote on gender, education and culture. However, wanting to live slow and write slower, she took a break to reflect on sustainability. She now wants to travel to the rest of Asia and work with people around art, environment and education.

Ankita likes to write stories, photograph details, teach writing, make To-Do lists (but not strike them off), design postcards for friends, do jigsaw puzzles and smile at freshly sprouted leaves. Someday, she also hopes to learn how to weave and play the harmonica, but till then, she will be meeting like-minded creators through the duration of the 52 Parindey Fellowship and learning from their journey. Currently, she is reading Milan Kundera's '*The Book of Laughter and Forgetting*' and volunteering at a farm near Hyderabad where she plays with mud and plants. Connect with her on Instagram @ankitamarwaha if you are a fellow Jill or Jack.



Dheeraj K.
Raipur, Chhattisgarh

धीरज एक ऊर्जावान सामाजिक कार्यकर्ता है। यह रायपुर, छत्तीसगढ़ के रहने वाले है। इनका जन्म छत्तीसगढ़ के बलौदा बाजार जिले के एक छोटे से गाँव बैकोनी में हुआ। इनकी प्रारम्भिक शिक्षा करीब के कस्बे में पूरा हुई। बचपन से ही इन्हें सामाजिक घटनाओं में रुचि रही। अपने स्कूल की पढ़ाई के बाद से ही धीरज सामाजिक कार्यों में लग गए। वे स्कूल के बाद से ही अलग अलग संस्थानों में जुड़कर काम कर रहे हैं। उनका अनुभव सामुदायिक स्तर पर महिलाओं और युवाओं के साथ काम करने का है तथा संस्था प्रबंधन का भी अनुभव रखते हैं। धीरज आंशिक काल के लिए छत्तीसगढ़ के घोर नक्सल प्रभावित जिलों में से एक सुकमा में भी रहे हैं और उन्होंने वहाँ के आदिवासी बच्चों के साथ काम किया है। वर्तमान में छत्तीसगढ़ में काम करते हुए जेंडर और सेक्सुअलिटी के मुद्दों पर भी अपनी समझ मजबूत कर रहे हैं व YuMetta Foundation के साथ जुड़े हैं।

धीरज समता और समानता पर विश्वास रखते हैं। वे स्वयं को एक नारीवादी कार्यकर्ता मानते हैं। उनका विशेष रुझान घरेलू हिंसा, जेंडर और LGBTQIA+ समुदाय की ओर है। धीरज ने Bachelors in Social Work व Diploma in Journalism and Mass Communication की पढ़ाई की है।

धीरज को घूमना, नए साथी बनाना और लोगों को सुनना पसंद है। उन्हें कविता व शायरी पढ़ने व सुनने का भी शौक है। वे आगे चलकर ऐसा समाज की कल्पना करते हैं जोकि हिंसामुक्त हो, जहाँ कोई किसी से बड़ा या छोटा ना हो, जहाँ सभी के बीच समता और समानता फले फुले।

Dheeraj is an energetic social worker who hails from Raipur, Chhattisgarh. He was born in a small village Baikoni in Baloda Bazar district of Chhattisgarh and completed his primary education from a nearby town. From childhood, he was interested in social events. And during his schooling, Dheeraj got involved in social work. Since then, he has been working by joining different institutions. He has experience of working with women and youth at the community level, and in organisation management. He also lived partly in Sukma, one of the worst Naxal-affected districts of Chhattisgarh and worked with tribal children there. Currently working in Chhattisgarh, he is strengthening his understanding on gender and sexuality and is associated with the YuMetta Foundation.

Dheeraj believes in equity and equality. He considers himself a feminist activist. He has a special interest in domestic violence, gender and the LGBTQIA+ community. Dheeraj has studied Bachelors in Social Work and Diploma in Journalism and Mass Communication.

Dheeraj loves to travel, make new friends, and listen to people. He is also fond of reading and listening to poems and poetry. He envisions a society which is free from violence, where no one is bigger or smaller than anyone, and equity and equality flourishes among all.



Kavya Chinda

Hyderabad, Telangana



Maitri Bhoomi



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Kavya is curious and intuitive who has worked with various organisations and NGOs in Delhi and other parts of India in the social sector. She has a personal commitment towards assisting socially excluded people to engage and collaborate for the ideal welfare of all. This experience has provided her with a constant opportunity to observe social communities, as well as to work among individuals, groups and families altogether within a variety of settings. She is academically capable of in-depth understanding of relevant procedures, techniques and legislatures with knowledge in social work practices, principles and their application to complex cases, group work and community issues.

The key areas that determine her idea to be committed to social work are women issues and mental health of socially excluded, oppressed minorities and other sections affected due to social or political events or conditions. These circumstances ignite her zeal towards compassion to see the world from a wider lens. Understanding, coordinating and supporting social communities open up the world of possibilities, in her opinion this platform of ideas balances the strength and widens interest. Her work and practice has deeper roots in history and art, to build a foundation on the consciousness through past references, present conditions and future ideation.



Lalita Suryawanshi

Dhamtari, Chhattisgarh



Maitri Bhoomi



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ललिता सूर्यवंशी छत्तीसगढ़ के एक छोटे से गाँव (डोकाल, नगरी ब्लाक, धमतरी जिला) की रहने वाली हैं। वे पिछले पांच वर्षों से चिन्हारी: द यंग इंडिया संस्थान से जुड़ी हुई हैं। ललिता आंबेडकर यूनिवर्सिटी, दिल्ली के 'अनलॉकिंग द पोटेंशियल ऑफ नॉन-टिंबर फॉरेस्ट प्रोड्यूस' नामक प्रोजेक्ट पे शोधकर्ता भी रह चुकी हैं। उनका रुझान जेंडर, युवा, आदिवासी और पर्यावरण के मुद्दों एवं सवालों की तरफ रहा हैं। पिछले पांच वर्षों में उन्होंने इन सवालों एवं मुद्दों पर काम करते हुए इन्हें और गहराई से समझने की कोशिश करी है।

उन्होंने पिछले कुछ समय में दो लेख लिखे हैं – १) "[चिन्हारी: द यंग यंग इंडिया](#)" जो विकल्प संगम के द्वारा प्रकाशित किया गया है। २) "[चरझनिया घर](#)" जो आदिवासी लाइव्स मैटर्स के द्वारा प्रकाशित किया गया है।

ललिता के लिए ऐसे लेख लिखना, अपनी बात दुनिया तक पहुंचा पाना आसान नहीं था। मगर ललिता संघर्ष में विश्वास रखती हैं। उनका सपना है कि उनके क्षेत्र की लड़कियों को उनकी तरह सीखने का मौका मिले, अपने आत्म-परिचय तक पहुँचने का मौका मिले। इसी सोच को सच्चाई में बदलने के लिए ललिता अपने छोटे से गाँव से हर उस गाँव या शहर तक पहुँचने के लिए तैयार हैं जहाँ लोग लड़कियों की आवाज़ सुनना चाहेंगे।

Lalita Suryavanshi hails from a small village Dokal in Dhamtari District of Chhattisgarh. She has been associated with Chinhari: The Young India for the last five years. She has also been a researcher on the project 'Unlocking the Potential of Non-Timber Forest Produce' with Ambedkar University, Delhi. She has been associated with topics of gender, youth, tribal affairs and environment. In the last five years, while working on these questions, she has tried to understand them more deeply.

She has written two articles in the recent past – 1) "[Chinhari: The Young Young India](#)" published by Vikalp Sangam and 2) "[Charjhaniya Ghar](#)" published by Adivasi Lives Matter.

It has not been easy for Lalita to write such articles and to reach out to the world. But she believes in struggle. She dreams that the girls of her area should get a chance to learn like her, to pursue self-exploration. To turn this thinking into reality, Lalita is ready to reach every village or city from her small village where people are keen on hearing the voices of girls.



Rahul Rahangdale
Nagpur, Maharashtra

Rahul likes to call himself a seeker - a seeker of varied learning and life experiences. Coming from a small village of Seoni, Madhya Pradesh, he had little to no exposure until he met with Gourav Jaiswal of Agrini, an organisation based out of Seoni. He became a volunteer with Agrini and its initiatives like Shikshalaya, Udaan, and Gyan Mela. After schooling, he travelled to Bhopal and Chandigarh to participate in Shiksha Satyagraha and a facilitator workshop named Training of Trainers at Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development.

His passion for education and exposure developed from then. He realised that travelling is a medium which gives great learning experiences which is why he joined the Jagriti Yatra in 2018. Later, he joined a teaching fellowship program in Nagpur called Learning Companions which made him realise what is quality education, what are effective pedagogical practices and how exposure actually makes children better learners.

His long-term vision is to work with youth and create learning spaces for them to help them to know the world and themselves better. He wants today's youth to be self-aware and make informed choices about their careers and life. Through the 52 Parindey Fellowship, he wants to explore such kinds of spaces, organisations, and people.



Smriti
Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh

Smriti is an admirer of life and believes in never letting go of a chance to experience it from various lenses. When not pondering upon the big and small questions of life, you would find her writing, daydreaming, indulging in adventure sports, and creating. A software engineer by profession and working on software solutions for years now, she still believes that the world can do without one less software but not without mutual consideration among its residents.

She relates most with a wildflower as it grows freely by will, holds its ground, does not fall into strict categories, and is authentic.

Nervously confident, she hopes to make at least one heart smile in a day and countless hearts alive in her lifetime, including hers. Unraveling herself and the world one page at a time, she believes that we have a lot to live (for) in the finite number of days that we are given.



Zehra Ali Khan
Kolkata, West Bengal



Maitri Bhoomi



Zehra is a slow traveller who believes the earth is her home and the world her family. She was born and brought up in the heart of a metro city and studied Sociology from St. Xavier's Kolkata with her research dissertation topic as "The active role of consumption in shaping lives". However, now you would find her in remote villages, forests, or around children.

She has been exploring art as a medium for education and confidence building amongst children in her current rural fellowship.

She loves outdoor sports, can write you a poem within five minutes and make you a song within ten, can track leopards if need be and finds inspiration in art, nature and the curiosity of children.

A believer of the Kabir philosophy, she dreams of a more peaceful and harmonious world and believes that education can play an important role in the same which is now driving her towards a journey to understand education better.