



Khoj's Vision for Youth Leadership Gets Incubated at NSRCEL, IIM-Bangalore

We're delighted to announce that Khoj has been selected as one of the 23 ventures for the highly competitive Impact Orbit Incubation Program by NSRCEL, IIM Bangalore — out of 400+ organizations that applied from across the country!

This selection is not just a milestone for us — it is a powerful validation of the urgency and relevance of the problem we are addressing: the widening gap between youth potential and their engagement in solving real-world challenges.

NSRCEL's Impact Orbit supports tech-enabled social innovations with high-growth potential to build scalable and sustainable models for impact.

As part of the induction into the program, our team participated in a 3-day bootcamp at the IIM Bangalore campus, surrounded by brilliant innovators and changemakers



The experience was intense, enriching, and deeply inspiring. We had meaningful sessions led by industry leaders and academicians on a range of vital topics including:

- Pitching with clarity and authenticity
- Building and leveraging social capital
- Constituting a powerful Theory of Change

- Understanding financial models for scaling

Each session helped us reflect more deeply on our work and refine the strategies that can take Khoj to the next level.

During the bootcamp, we also had the chance to connect and initiate a collaboration with another venture working at the grassroots level.



As Khoj continues to empower youth through experiential learning, leadership journeys, and grassroots engagement, this incubation will help us strengthen our model, deepen our impact, and prepare to scale across geographies.

We are excited to learn, unlearn, and grow alongside some of the most innovative social entrepreneurs in the country.

Thank you to NSRCEL, IIM Bangalore for believing in our vision. We're also deeply grateful to our community and well-wishers who've been with us every step of the way.

Stay tuned for updates as we share key learnings and progress from this transformative journey!

In hope and action,
Team Khoj



Stories of Khojis: Ashiq's Journey to Reconnect with Nature

For Ashiq, a Khoji from the 5th edition of The Great Indian Treasure Hunt, the forests of Nilambur were more than just a backdrop for an environmental project—they became a mirror, a teacher, and a source of deep inner reflection.

Ashiq recently participated in a one-day Invasive Plant Removal Project at the Karimpuzha Wildlife Sanctuary, nestled within the breathtaking Nedunkayam rainforest in Kerala. The initiative was organized by Wild Explorers, led by acclaimed wildlife photographer and nature educator Sadique Ali VM, in collaboration with the Kerala Forest & Wildlife Department.

The mission was clear: to help restore native vegetation and support wildlife conservation by removing invasive plant species that disrupt the natural ecosystem.



The day began not with action, but with awareness. Ashiq and the other participants learned how invasive species like *Mikania micrantha* and *Lantana camara* rapidly spread, choking native vegetation and pushing wildlife—especially elephants—out of their habitat. The session also explored the link between these plants and the growing human-wildlife conflicts across India. Following the session, the group ventured into the forest. Each person took on the difficult task of uprooting

invasive plants.

Despite the group's best efforts, only a small section could be cleared—a powerful reminder of how overwhelming and time-consuming ecological restoration truly is. The effort also gave him new appreciation for the tireless work of forest officers and grassroots conservationists, who continue these efforts year-round.



Midway through the work, the skies opened. Heavy monsoon rain came pouring down. But instead of stopping, the group kept going. Some laughed, some danced, and some simply stood still, taking it all in.

"There was this moment in the rain when I wasn't thinking about time or outcomes or plans. I just felt alive. The forest, the rain, the people—it felt like the Earth was letting us in," Ashiq shared.

He came back with mud on his clothes, stories in his heart, and a deeper sense of responsibility towards the environment. The project, though symbolic in scale, was powerful in intention. It reminded him—and everyone involved—that real change often begins with small, consistent acts of care.

As a Khoji, Ashiq's journey is about more than learning skills; it's about discovering meaning through action.

Leadership Beyond Borders: Abhilash Leads Dialogue on Transformative Leadership with Africa's Rising Leaders

We are thrilled to share that Abhilash John, founder of Khoj, recently conducted an impactful session with emerging young leaders across Africa as part of the Leadership and Governance Program organized by the Tyrone Havnar Foundation. As a featured speaker during Week 1 of the three-week virtual leadership series, Abhilash led an interactive session on "Foundations of Transformative Leadership". Speaking to a diverse group of aspiring changemakers from across the African continent, he shared his personal journey—from leaving a conventional job to walking the path of social change through volunteering, leadership, and community building.

		
ABHILASH JOHN INDIA 🇮🇳	KELISHA PANDARAM SOUTH AFRICA 🇿🇦	SRISTI KC GERMANY 🇩🇪
Week 1: Foundations of Transformative Leadership Date: Monday 02 June 2025 16:00 -17:00 CAT	Week 2: Civic Engagement and Governance Date: Monday 09 June 2025 16:00 -17:00 CAT	Week 3: Practical Leadership vision and legacy Date: Monday 16 June 2025 16:00 -17:00 CAT

All selected applicants will receive 80% scholarship sponsored by the foundation
For direct queries contact our Country representative Zack Titus
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In his session, Abhilash emphasized that true leadership begins with self-awareness and purpose. Drawing from his work with Indian youth through immersive learning journeys, he guided participants to reflect on their own values, the challenges facing their communities, and the importance of leading with empathy, courage, and integrity. Through stories of grassroots initiatives, rural experiences, and failures that led to learning, Abhilash inspired participants to look beyond positional leadership and explore authentic leadership rooted in service. The session was part of a larger initiative by the Tyrone Havnar Foundation to equip young trailblazers with critical skills in leadership, governance, and civic engagement. The program includes sessions by other global leaders such as Kelisha Pandaram (South Africa) and Sristi KC (Germany), and features interactive challenges, real-time mentorship, and opportunities for global networking.

Apply for the School for Social Transformation



Applications Closing soon: School for Social Transformation

25-30 August 2025 | Edition 7

FULLY FUNDED

Perks:

- 4 week online capacity development on leadership and sustainable development.
- 6 Day Experiential Learning Journey in Kerala.
- 3 month mentorship to complete a community engagement project.
- Opportunity to Apply for Micro-grant, Certificate & Letter of recommendation.

How to Apply

Application Link : <https://linktr.ee/igniteindia>

Final deadline to Apply: 25th July 2025, 11:59 PM

More Information

www.theigniteindia.com
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+91-7698443039

Are you a passionate young changemaker looking to deepen your leadership skills and drive meaningful change in your community? The School for Social Transformation, hosted by The Ignite Foundation, is now accepting applications for its 7th edition, happening from 25th to 30th August 2025 in Kerala. This fully funded program offers a unique blend of learning, mentorship, and real-world application designed to empower youth working for social impact.

Participants will engage in a 4-week online capacity-building journey focused on leadership and sustainable development, followed by a 6-day immersive experiential learning journey in Kerala. The program also includes a 3-month mentorship phase, where participants design and implement their own community engagement project with ongoing guidance and support. Additionally, selected participants will have the opportunity to apply for micro-grants, and receive a certificate of completion and letter of recommendation to strengthen their future opportunities.

The final deadline to apply is 25th July 2025 at 11:59 PM. Don't miss this opportunity to learn, unlearn, and co-create with a vibrant community of changemakers from across India.

Let's come together to lead change with purpose and action.

Expressing Gratitude and Seeking Continued Support from Our Valued Supporters

Dear Supporters,

We wanted to take a heartfelt moment to express our deepest gratitude for your unwavering support of our program. Your belief in our mission and your generous contributions have been the backbone of everything we've been able to achieve so far. We wouldn't be here without you—and for that, we are truly thankful.

Because of your support, we've been able to open doors for countless young individuals—many of whom come from communities where opportunities are scarce. We've seen young people step into their potential, grow in confidence, discover their purpose, and go on to lead projects that bring real change to their neighborhoods. You've helped transform not just individuals, but entire communities.

As we move forward, our dream is to ensure that every young person—regardless of background—can participate in this journey of transformation. But for many, financial barriers still stand in the way. This is where your continued support becomes a beacon of hope.

By helping us provide scholarships, launch new initiatives, and strengthen our learning ecosystem, you're investing in a future where curiosity, courage, and compassion lead the way. You're helping us build a world where young people are not just passive learners, but active changemakers—driven by curiosity and guided by experience.

We humbly ask you to continue standing with us as we widen our reach and deepen our impact. Together, we can ensure that no dream goes unrealized just because of a lack of resources.

Thank you for walking this path with us. Thank you for believing in the potential of young hearts and minds.

With deepest gratitude and warm regards,
The Entire Khoj Family



By supporting our work, you're not just funding a program—you're becoming a catalyst for transformation in the lives of young people and the marginalized communities they serve across India.

Your support helps unlock the potential of youth who often go unnoticed or unheard. It empowers them with the tools, experiences, and confidence to become changemakers in their own right.

DONATE NOW, BE THE PART OF CHANGE

Account Name : Umeedo Ki Kiran Forum

Account Number: 41553803515

IFSC code: SBIN0013925

Branch: Corporate Road, Ahmedabad.

For more information about Khoj and to explore ways to support our mission, please feel free to reach out to us at info.khojindia@gmail.com or call us at +91 - 7698443039.