



## From Local to Global: Khoj's Vision for Youth Leadership Shines at the Kazan Global Youth Summit in Russia

A couple of weeks ago, our Founder had the immense privilege of representing India as the only Indian delegate at the Kazan Global Youth Summit 2025. At the summit, he shared the journey of nurturing youth leaders through initiatives like Khoj and Ignite Foundation India, while connecting with fellow changemakers from across the globe.

A key highlight was the signing of an MoU with the Academy of Youth Diplomacy, aimed at collectively nurturing youth leadership and enabling collaboration across borders. These discussions reinforced the idea that impactful youth initiatives are not only local but can also be global in vision and reach.



The summit was not only a platform for sharing impactful work but also a celebration of cultural expression. Throughout the summit, he had the opportunity to interact with youth leaders from across the globe, learning about the unique challenges they face in their communities, the innovative solutions they are implementing

Beyond showcasing India's leadership initiatives, the summit offered the chance to highlight India's timeless practices — from mindfulness and meditation to inner reflection and community-centered living.



Reflecting on this experience, our Founder feels deeply grateful to represent India on a global stage, advocating for the values of diversity, empathy, and community-centered leadership. The summit reinforced that local community youth leaders, like those nurtured through Khoj, can inspire global conversations and action — bridging local initiatives with global perspectives to create meaningful change.

The Kazan Global Youth Summit 2025 was more than a conference — it was a testament to the power of youth-led innovation, cultural celebration, and international collaboration. It reminded us that leadership is not just about solving problems; it's about connecting, sharing, and amplifying the voices of young changemakers across the world.





## Stories of Khojis: The Amphibian Life - Reeshmal's Oceanic Journey with Azim Premji University

We're glad to share that Reeshmal, a Khoji from the 4th edition of The Great Indian Treasure Hunt, has been selected as one of the fellows of "Coasts & Oceans of Life," a program organized by Azim Premji University as part of their Annual Climate Festival — a celebration of nature, creativity, and climate action.

This year's festival, taking place at the Azim Premji University, Bengaluru Campus from 27 October to 8 November 2025. As part of this fellowship, Reeshmal is showcasing two unique works — a photo essay and an art installation — both deeply personal and evocative explorations of life at sea.

Reeshmal's photo essay, titled "The Amphibian Life – My Father's Life Shared Between Sea and Land," is a heartfelt visual story born from his deep connection to his father, who spent more than 15 years working on the sea.



As part of this fellowship, Reeshmal lived alongside fishermen during an eight-day deep-sea fishing voyage, experiencing firsthand the challenges and rhythms of life at sea. He writes:

"Life on a boat is unlike anything on land. It changes how you eat, sleep, talk, and think. You are constantly aware that you're floating — alive, yet at the mercy of the waves. It was a steep learning curve."

Through his journey, he gained a profound understanding of what it means for fishermen like his

father to live away from their families for weeks, facing uncertainty in pursuit of livelihood.

"I could see how hard it is for a fisherman to be away from home. I could empathize with that feeling," he reflects.

Alongside his photo essay, Reeshmal is also presenting an art installation based on Gyotaku, an ancient Japanese fish printing technique traditionally used by fishermen to record their catches.

This installation merges art, ecology, and memory, symbolizing both the abundance and fragility of marine life.



But beneath the adventure lies a sobering realization. The journey gave Reeshmal a deeper awareness of how climate change, overfishing, and unsustainable practices are threatening both marine ecosystems and the coastal communities that depend on them. He witnessed fishermen searching tirelessly day and night, often returning with empty nets — a painful reminder of how fragile our oceans have become.

Through The Amphibian Life, Reeshmal hopes to inspire reflection and action — reminding us that the ocean is not a distant entity, but a living world deeply intertwined with human life.

We are proud of Reeshmal for carrying forward the Khoj spirit — of empathy, curiosity, and courageous exploration — and for turning personal stories into powerful calls for collective change.



## kantharis Visit Changemakers Ashram

We were delighted to host a group of kantharis at Changemakers Ashram – Lakeshore Retreats, our living-learning space in Varkala. The visit was filled with inspiring conversations, reflections, and a shared sense of purpose. Abhilash John and Naji, shared the story of Khoj – an experiential learning journey that has been engaging and empowering young people across India to lead with compassion, courage, and creativity.

Abhilash and Naji spoke about how their time at kanthari, the international leadership institute for social visionaries, played a pivotal role in shaping both Khoj and Changemakers Ashram. What began as a quest to bridge the gap between young people and social change has evolved into a movement – one that invites youth to step beyond comfort zones, live resourcefully, and learn through real-world experiences.



During the session, they reflected on the early days of Khoj, when a handful of passionate young people came together to explore rural India and work with grassroots organizations.

The dialogue with kantharis sparked deeper conversations about sustainability, leadership, and the importance of creating ecosystems that nurture changemakers. Abhilash and Naji emphasized that Changemakers Ashram emerged from this very realization – that transformation cannot be a one-time journey but needs a living space where young people can co-live, co-learn, and co-create solutions for a better world.

It was a true honor to welcome Sabriye Tenberken and Paul Kronenberg, the co-founders of kanthari, whose vision has deeply influenced the journey of Khoj. The spirit of kanthari – to lead by example, think differently, and act fearlessly – continues to inspire our work every day.

## Apply for the 7<sup>th</sup> edition of The Great Indian Treasure Hunt



We are excited to share that applications are now open for the upcoming edition of The Great Indian Treasure Hunt (GITH – 7.0), happening in Nov-Dec 2025.

The Great Indian Treasure Hunt is a 6-week experiential learning journey for youth (18–30) who are ready to step out of their comfort zones, travel across India, and engage deeply with grassroots communities.

This is more than just a program – it is a movement for youth action in social change, where participants:

✨ What you will experience

- Travel across diverse regions of India
- Volunteer with grassroots organizations working on social & environmental issues
- Work in diverse teams on real challenges
- Journey through the 5 zones of growth – comfort, fear, curiosity, learning & transformation
- Build leadership, resilience, and teamwork skills through lived experiences

📍 When & Where: Nov–Dec 2025 | Across India

👤 Eligibility: Youth between 18–30 years

💰 Scholarships available

👉 Apply now and be part of this life-changing journey:

# 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**

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IFSC code: SBIN0013925

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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](mailto:info.khojindia@gmail.com) or call us at +91 - 7698443039.