



SECOND QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER 2023



Khoj - The Great Indian Treasure Hunt has been recognized as one of the top 15 global solutions for the prestigious Young Global Changers Recoupling Awards 2023.

We have some exciting news to share with you all! Khoj - The Great Indian Treasure Hunt has been selected as one of the 15 finalists for the prestigious Young Global Changers Awards. Out of the 500 applications received from over 120 countries, Khoj has made it to the top, showcasing its innovative and impactful approach.

As a part of this incredible achievement, our very own founder, Abhilash John, has been invited to Berlin, Germany, to be a part of the Global Solution Summit. This summit brings together world leaders from around the globe to discuss pressing global challenges and collaborate on finding solutions. It is truly an honor for Khoj and a testament to the meaningful work we are doing.

During the Global Solution Summit, Abhilash John had the unique opportunity to meet German Chancellor Olaf Scholz. This encounter with a prominent world leader was an extraordinary privilege for our founder, who had the chance to share Khoj's vision and discuss the importance of promoting education and cultural understanding through treasure hunts at the Summit.

We are immensely proud of this recognition and grateful for the support and encouragement we have received thus far. Being selected as a finalist among such a diverse

and competitive pool of applicants highlight the impact and potential of Khoj's mission to bridge communities and promote mutual learning.

The Young Global Changers Awards and the Global Solution Summit provide a platform for changemakers from all walks of life to come together, exchange ideas, and work towards building a better future. We are humbled to be a part of this global movement and committed to continuing our efforts to make a positive difference in society.





The Great Indian Treasure Hunt Concludes with Inspiring Tales of Exploration: "Voice of Khoji" Event Leaves Audience Mesmerized

After an exhilarating three-month journey filled with adventure, anticipation, and relentless pursuit, The Great Indian Treasure Hunt came to a breathtaking conclusion. The highly anticipated event, which captivated the nation, concluded with a captivating "Voice of Khoji" event held in the enchanting locale of Kanthari, Trivandrum.

The "Voice of Khoji" event served as a platform for the twelve participants of the treasure hunt to share their incredible stories of exploration and the transformative impact the journey had on their lives. It was a morning filled with inspiration, emotion, and celebration as the participants recounted their trials, triumphs, and moments of self-discovery.

One by one, the participants took the stage and shared their personal experiences. Each story was a testament to the power of determination, teamwork, and the indomitable human spirit. The "Voice of Khoji" event not only showcased the physical endeavors of the participants but also delved into the emotional and personal growth they experienced throughout the journey. Many spoke of the newfound friendships, the bonds forged amidst adversity, and the profound impact of exploring India's diverse cultural tapestry.

The audience was captivated by these tales of exploration hanging onto every word as the participants unveiled their

most cherished memories and the life-changing moments that had shaped them. The atmosphere was electric, filled with a sense of awe and inspiration that reverberated through the venue.

The "Voice of Khoji" event featured esteemed panel members, including Paul Sab from Kanthari, Riya and Chacko working with young change makers, and Tiffany, founder of Jyothirgamaya. Their critical questions prompted the participants to reflect on their learnings and how to implement them in their future lives. The event emphasized the importance of mentorship, personal growth, and creating lasting change.





Khojis at Anantmool and Wild

We are delighted to share an inspiring story of collaboration and impact from the second phase of The Great Indian Treasure Hunt. During the second placement, one of the three teams ventured to Anantmool and Wild, two remarkable social organizations based in a tribal village of Bihar.

At Anantmool, the Khojis wholeheartedly engaged with tribal children at the learning center. It was a heartwarming experience as they discovered that many of these children lacked access to basic education. Determined to make a difference, the Khojis dedicated their time and efforts to enhance the learning environment. They beautified the school campus by adorning it with vibrant and captivating artwork, creating an inspiring space for the children to explore and learn.



Anantmool, a haven for these underprivileged children, witnessed the power of education combined with creativity, leaving an indelible mark on the lives of the young learners. The Khojis' initiative not only brought smiles and joy but also encouraged a sense of curiosity and a thirst for knowledge within these children.

On the other hand, Khojis also engaged at Wild, a remarkable organization working towards reviving indigenous crops and raising awareness about millets. Millets, known for their numerous health benefits, have been overshadowed by other commercially popular grains. The Khojis recognized the importance of promoting healthier choices and assisting Wild in their noble mission.

Khojis actively participated in documenting and capturing product photography of Wild's healthy snacks. By showcasing the delectable snacks through visually appealing imagery, the Khojis aimed to entice people to make better dietary choices and appreciate the goodness of millets. Their collective efforts played a crucial role in spreading awareness about the importance of indigenous crops and their positive impact on overall well-being.

The collaboration between the Khojis and Wild fostered an environment of learning, understanding, and appreciation for sustainable and healthy food choices. Through their combined efforts, they aimed to make a lasting impact on the community, empowering them to embrace their indigenous roots and make informed dietary decisions.

The Great Indian Treasure Hunt not only embodies the spirit of adventure and exploration but also demonstrates the power of collaboration and social responsibility. The teams' engagement with Anantmool and Wild showcases their dedication to making a positive difference in the lives of underprivileged children and promoting healthier lifestyles.





Khojis at Seva Gram

The Khojis, during their adventurous learning journey, had the opportunity to be Sevagram Ashram. This historic ashram holds immense significance as the residence of Mahatma Gandhi from 1936 until his passing in 1948. Located in the serene surroundings of Wardha this ashram served as a pivotal place for Mahatma Gandhi's teachings and principles of non-violence, simplicity, and rural empowerment.

During their time at Sevagram Ashram, the team actively engaged in promoting rural livelihood projects. Understanding the importance of sustainable and inclusive development, they collaborated with local communities to identify and support initiatives that would uplift the lives of rural inhabitants.



One of the key aspects of their involvement was learning more about khadi production. Khadi, a hand-spun and hand-woven fabric, held significant importance during Mahatma Gandhi's freedom struggle as a symbol of self-reliance and rural empowerment. The Khojis delved deep into the intricacies of khadi production, understanding its historical and cultural significance.

Moreover, the team had the privilege of hosting an Indigenous Seed Festival, celebrating the rich diversity of natural farming practices. This festival aimed to promote the use of indigenous seeds and traditional farming methods, which align with the principles of sustainability and environmental conservation. By bringing together farmers, experts, and enthusiasts, the Khojis facilitated a platform for knowledge exchange and inspired a broader adoption of natural farming practices. The team's efforts not only honored Mahatma Gandhi's vision of rural upliftment but also aligned with the global movement towards sustainable agriculture and preserving traditional farming techniques. Through their participation in these initiatives, the Khojis contributed to empowering rural communities and ensuring the preservation of indigenous knowledge and practices.



Sevagram Ashram served as a transformative space for the Khojis, allowing them to connect with the timeless principles of Mahatma Gandhi and immerse themselves in the spirit of rural development. Their experiences at the ashram not only enriched their own understanding but also created ripples of positive change within the communities they interacted with.

The Great Indian Treasure Hunt continues to provide a platform for participants to explore the diverse cultural heritage of India while actively engaging in projects that promote social, economic, and environmental well-being. Through their placement at Sevagram Ashram, the Khojis paid homage to the Mahatma's teachings and exemplified the potential for collective action in shaping a better and more sustainable future.



Khojis at kanthari for Air Phase

The Great Indian Treasure Hunt highlights the remarkable Air phase of this exhilarating adventure. During this phase, participants embarked on an extraordinary journey, traveling over 60 hours by train to reach kanthari international leadership institute which is situated in Trivandrum the southernmost part of India.

All participants were reunited, coming together at kanthari for a debriefing session to share their learnings and experiences. The participants reflected on their remarkable journey, sharing inspiring stories of perseverance, teamwork, and self-discovery.

Khojis had the privilege of engaging in enlightening sessions with the founder and the entire team of Kanthari. Let's dive into the enriching experiences that unfolded during this phase.



Kanthari, a renowned organization dedicated to empowering social visionaries and change-makers, became a catalyst for inspiration during the air phase. The participants had the unique opportunity to interact with the founder and the entire Kanthari team, who shared their wisdom, experiences, and insights with the Khojis. The sessions with kanthari's founder proved to be a transformative experience for the participants. Through engaging discussions, the founder's visionary perspective and personal anecdotes ignited a sense of purpose and resilience within the participants. The founder's journey, filled with passion and determination, served as a beacon of hope, encouraging the participants to pursue their own dreams and aspirations.

In addition to the debriefing session, the Khojis also engaged in a community service project during their time in Kanthai. They dedicated their efforts towards cleaning the Vellyani Lake, a local water body of immense ecological importance. Through this act of environmental stewardship, the participants showcased their commitment to sustainable practices and their dedication to preserving the natural beauty of India's landscapes.



Furthermore, the air phase of The Great Indian Treasure Hunt created a strong support system among the participants. As they traveled together, shared experiences, and faced challenges, they built lasting bonds and friendships. This support network played a crucial role in uplifting each participant, providing encouragement, motivation, and a sense of camaraderie throughout their incredible journey.

The "Voice of Khoji" event at Kanthai proved to be a pivotal moment for the participants. It allowed them to articulate their transformative experiences and celebrate their accomplishments in front of a supportive audience. The panel, comprising experts and mentors, provided valuable feedback, fostering an environment of learning and growth.



Impact of The Great Indian Treasure Hunt

Through this program, significant impact was created on multiple levels. The 12 participants embarked on a transformative three-month journey, immersing themselves in the work of more than 10 social organizations. As they progressed through the program's six different phases (Sky, Water, Fire, Metal, Earth, and Air), their perspectives and understanding of social issues evolved, leading to personal growth and positive change.

Specific impact achievements include:

Agroforestry at AgroRangers: The participants successfully planted and cultivated 1 acre of land into agroforestry, promoting sustainable agricultural practices and contributing to environmental conservation.

Water Body Cleaning: They actively participated in cleaning of vellayani lake, addressing water pollution and preserving aquatic ecosystems.



School Campus Beautification: At Manthan in Rajasthan and Anatmool in Bihar, the participants beautified and painted school campuses, creating vibrant and inspiring learning environments for children.

Mud House Construction and Land Clearing: Working with Adi Johar, the participants actively engaged in building mud houses, promoting sustainable living practices, and clearing land for cultivation, thereby supporting ecological conservation and sustainable livelihoods.

Collectively, the participants dedicated approximately 3000 hours to volunteering efforts across various organizations and initiatives. This substantial commitment demonstrates their passion, dedication, and positive impact within the communities they served. Additionally, throughout the program, the participants gained knowledge and skills that extended beyond their immediate reality. They learned how to live resourcefully, making the most of limited resources and finding innovative solutions to challenges. They were encouraged to take risks, pushing themselves out of their comfort zones and embracing new experiences.



Working in diverse teams, they developed the ability to collaborate effectively with people from different backgrounds and perspectives. The program also focused on personal development, enhancing self-confidence, tolerance, and social skills. Participants were encouraged to reflect on their own beliefs and biases, fostering a greater understanding and acceptance of others. Through experiential learning and engaging with diverse communities, they developed empathy and the ability to see the world from different viewpoints. . These personal growth outcomes have a lasting impact on their lives, enabling them to contribute positively to society and continue making a difference beyond the program's duration.



Moments from The Great Indian Treasure Hunt





From Seekers to Champions: Honoring the Inspiring Transformations of Khojis

Two of our Khojis, Anand and Tarun post the three-month edition kanthari leadership program and Gandhi Fellowship! We are truly delighted to witness how participants, like yourself, are not only experiencing personal growth but also making a profound impact in their communities. It is heartening to see how the Great Indian Treasure Hunt has served as a catalyst, prompting individuals to reassess their career paths and emerge as dedicated social leaders who are willing to take risks.



The essence of The Great Indian Treasure Hunt lies in providing young people with an opportunity to embark on a transformative journey, one that transcends their immediate reality. It offers a platform to gain knowledge beyond traditional boundaries, fostering resourcefulness, adaptability, and the courage to embrace risks.

NOTE TO THE 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 so they 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 info.khojindia@gmail.com or call us at +91 7698443039.

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



By supporting our work you can make a difference in the life youngsters and in the marginalized communities across India.

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