

THIRD QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER 2023



The 5th edition of Khoj - The Great Indian Treasure Hunt : A Journey of Discovery and Learning has kicked off from Jeevantirth, Ahmedabad

We're thrilled to announce the commencement of the much-awaited fifth edition of the Great Indian Treasure Hunt, a thrilling adventure that promises to be not just a quest for exploration through different grassroots communities, but also a journey of self-discovery and personal growth. For this edition, we've seven 'khojis' from diverse corners of India.

What makes this edition even more special is the return of three of our seasoned khojis from previous editions, who will be playing the role of 'Team Catalysts'. They will accompany the current cohort throughout their journey, sharing their invaluable experiences and insights, and acting as enablers and guides for the newcomers.

The Great Indian Treasure Hunt kicked off with the Orientation Sky Phase at Jeevantirth, Ahmedabad. This phase was all about forging connections, setting clear objectives, and defining goals for the challenging road ahead. Participants had the opportunity to get to know one another, fostering a sense of camaraderie that is crucial for success in any team-based endeavor.

One of the significant highlights of this initial phase was the establishment of protocols for managing conflicts. In any collaborative venture, conflicts can arise, but the Khojis are well-prepared to handle them gracefully, ensuring that they become opportunities for growth rather than obstacles.

As we embark on this exciting adventure, we invite you to follow our journey closely. The Great Indian Treasure Hunt is about discovering the treasures within ourselves and our teammates. Stay tuned for updates, stories of challenges overcome, and lessons learned along the way.

We'd like to extend our heartfelt thanks to our sponsors, partners, and all those who have supported us in making this incredible journey possible. Your belief in our mission is what drives us forward.

Join us in celebrating the spirit of exploration, teamwork, and personal growth as we dive headfirst into the fifth edition of the Great Indian Treasure Hunt. This promises to be an unforgettable voyage filled with excitement, adventure, and boundless learning.



Khojis' Engaging Encounter with the Youth of the Young Experiment Group at Sabarmati Ashram

khojis got a chance to meet and interact with the vibrant young minds of Ahmedabad. This special rendezvous was organized in collaboration with the Young Experiment Group at Sabarmati Ashram, creating an environment where stories, dreams, and aspirations seamlessly converged.

The meeting was a remarkable exchange of ideas and experiences. The khojis, hailing from different corners of India, shared their personal stories and the dreams that had led them to embark on this thrilling journey. The youngsters of Ahmedabad, in turn, opened up about their own dreams and aspirations, painting a vivid picture of the future they envision for themselves and their communities.

What was truly heartening to witness was the genuine enthusiasm that permeated the atmosphere. The young minds of Ahmedabad were not only excited to meet the khojis but also immensely appreciative of their courage to venture into the unknown, participating in the Great Indian Treasure Hunt. To them, this journey symbolized not only a quest to discover the diverse tapestry of India but also an opportunity for self-discovery and personal growth.

Intriguingly, this interaction kindled a spark among many of the Ahmedabad youngsters who expressed a keen interest in applying for future cohorts of the program. The tales of adventure, exploration, and self-discovery shared by the khojis served as an inspiration, proving that the spirit of curiosity and the desire to learn is boundless, transcending age and background.

Following this enlightening encounter, the khojis had yet another opportunity to broaden their horizons. They had the privilege of interacting with Vijay Ji, an eminent figure with over 40 years of experience working with youth. His insights and wisdom proved to be invaluable, further igniting the khojis' passion for the journey ahead.



This unique exchange between the khojis and the youth of Ahmedabad underscored the program's broader mission - to foster connections, bridge generational gaps, and inspire the leaders of tomorrow. It is a testament to the power of human connection and the profound impact that sharing stories and dreams can have on individuals from different walks of life.

As the Great Indian Treasure Hunt progresses, these connections forged during the Orientation Phase will undoubtedly continue to shape the journey, reminding us that the true treasures we seek are often found in the hearts and minds of those we meet along the way.



Khojis' Immersion in Phrabat Pheri: A Day Embracing Gandhi's Spirit on Gandhi Jayanti

In the tranquil embrace of the early morning hours, well before the sun graced the sky and the birds began their symphony, the khojis gathered outside the Kalupur Swaminarayan Temple for a cherished annual tradition – the Prabhat Pheri, or Morning Stroll. This heartwarming event, conducted from the Kalupur Swaminarayan Temple to the Jama Masjid, marks the birth anniversary of the revered Mahatma Gandhi on the 2nd of October.



The Prabhat Pheri winds its way through the cobblestone lanes of Ahmedabad's ancient heart, rousing the city from its slumber while carrying forth the enduring message of Gandhi. It's a serenely peaceful activity, a chance to walk through the enchanting alleys of the old city, singing bhajans, as the first light of dawn graces the horizon. It's an experience that transcends the ordinary, leaving the khojis utterly absorbed, imbibing the profound values that Gandhi held dear.

This annual tradition not only pays homage to the legacy of Mahatma Gandhi but also serves as a poignant reminder of the enduring relevance of his teachings. It's an opportunity for the khojis to immerse themselves in the very essence of what Gandhi stood for – peace, unity, and the unwavering belief in the power of change through non-violence.

As the morning sun cast its golden hues over the city, the khojis found themselves enriched by this introspective journey. The Prabhat Pheri is more than a mere stroll; it's a pilgrimage through history and a spiritual awakening that leaves an indelible mark on the hearts and minds of all who partake. Here's to the enduring spirit of Gandhi, and to the khojis' continued journey in his hallowed footsteps.





The Great Indian Treasure Hunt enters the Water Phase

As the Great Indian Treasure Hunt enters the Water Phase it marks a pivotal moment in our journey, as Khojis embark on a new chapter filled with learning, exploration, and meaningful experiences. During this phase, the khojis discovered the organizations where they will be placed for the next four weeks, setting the stage for a deep dive into the world of social impact. It's at this juncture that their individual paths started to take shape, much like a river's journey as it begins to flow.

It was a journey marked by anticipation and excitement, as khojis looked forward to the unique experiences that awaited them in these unfamiliar yet promising settings.

Over the next four weeks, our khojis will immerse themselves in the daily operations and initiatives of their host organizations. They will engage with the local communities, collaborate with passionate individuals, and gain invaluable insights into the challenges and opportunities faced by these organizations. It's a time for hands-on learning and a chance to make a tangible impact on the communities they serve.

Stay tuned for updates as our khojis navigate the currents of the Water Phase, and as always, thank you for your unwavering support in making this incredible journey possible.



For this edition, we are proud to announce two esteemed placement organizations. The first is "Manav Vikas Sansthan," situated in the vibrant state of Punjab. The second is "Anatmool," nestled in the tribal landscape of Bihar. These organizations embody the spirit of social change and serve as the ideal platforms for our khojis to contribute, learn, and grow. The journey to these placements was an adventure in itself. After a long train journey spanning nearly 28 hours for one team and a whopping 50 hours for the other, both teams arrived at their respective host organizations.





Cultivating Change at Manav Vikas Sansthan: Khojis Dive into Sustainable Agriculture

Our khojis have been placed at Manav Vikas Sansthan (MVS), a remarkable organization that has been making waves in the realms of sustainable agriculture and community development.

MVS, initiated its work in Punjab during the 2015-16 period, is committed to a multifaceted mission. Their objectives encompass Watershed Management, Sustainable Agriculture, Biodiversity Restoration, Solid Waste Management, School Infrastructure Development, and Women Empowerment. At its core, MVS is dedicated to creating a Sustainable Agriculture model that empowers farmers to enhance their livelihoods by adopting cost-effective and yield-efficient techniques.

Our khojis are currently residing in the quaint village of Nupur Jatta, where they are actively engaged with the MVS team. Together, they are leading awareness camps on vital topics like crop residue management and sustainable seed sowing techniques. These efforts are more than just educational; they represent a hands-on approach to improving the lives of local farmers and fostering a more sustainable future.

By collaborating with the MVS team, our khojis are not only learning about the intricacies of sustainable agriculture but also actively contributing to the betterment of the community they are immersed in. This kind of engagement exemplifies the spirit of The Great Indian Treasure Hunt – it's not just a journey; it's a journey of transformation, empowerment, and making a positive impact in the communities.



One of the keystones of this mission is Capacity Building Training Programs, where farmers are equipped with the latest Agricultural Innovations. Through these programs, farmers are not only gaining insights into cutting-edge farming techniques but also learning how to harness more profits through sustainable practices.



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Oct 7, 2023, 13:53



Empowering Tomorrow: Khojis at Anatmool, a Gender-Free Learning Oasis

A team of Khojis are currently placed at Anatmool, a beacon of hope nestled in the heart of a remote and Naxal-affected tribal village called Noontara.

Anatmool stands as a testament to innovation and inclusivity, for it is the first gender-free learning center in this challenging terrain. In Noontara, girls are typically married off at the tender ages of 12 to 14, while boys are thrust into the world of earning money from their early years. It's a place where opportunities for education are rare, with no public or private school within a 3 km radius, leading the current generation to remain out of school.

But that's not all. The khojis have also introduced special skating classes, providing the children with an opportunity to explore a world of excitement and physical activity. These sessions serve as a testament to the khojis' commitment to holistic development and expanding horizons.

The journey at Anatmool is a story of resilience, hope, and the unyielding belief in the transformative power of education. It's about transcending barriers, challenging societal norms, and creating a nurturing space where children can thrive, learn, and dream.

As we follow the khojis on this remarkable journey, we invite you to join us in celebrating their incredible work at Anatmool. It is through their efforts that a new dawn of possibility is breaking in Noontara, one that promises a brighter future for these young souls.



Our khojis, with their unwavering dedication, have taken on a multi-faceted role at Anatmool. In addition to engaging with the children in the classroom, they have embarked on a mission to teach the kids how to swim. In a village surrounded by water bodies, this skill is not only empowering but also life-saving.





MANAV SADHNA

Love all, Serve all

The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others



Captured Moments from The Great Indian Treasure Hunt



Umesh, a non-violent communication trainer, leading a session on consensual decision-making for the Khojis.



Khojis at the Jama Masjid following the conclusion of a 5 km-long Prabhat Pheri.



Khojis in a Meeting with the Women Sarpanch (Panchayat President) of Nupur Jatta Village



Khojis engaging in Daily Reflection Circles at day's end



Co-Founder Invited to GCED Conference in South Korea

We're thrilled to announce that our co-founder Naji and a member of the Khoj family and Co-Founder of Ignite India Asif, have received a prestigious invitation to attend a Global Citizenship Education (GCED) conference in South Korea. This recognition highlights our commitment to fostering global awareness and sustainable education. Our co-founder's participation will undoubtedly contribute to our mission of promoting responsible and informed global citizenship. Stay tuned for valuable insights and collaborations emerging from this exciting event!



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

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!

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