

BAJAJ FELLOWS IN ACTION

A Kamalnayan Bajaj Fellowship Newsletter

THE YEAR IN RETROSPECT

[MAKING NEWS]

Sourabh (Class 7) wins the AD 100 award yet again



Architect Sourabh Gupta won the AD100 award for yet another year. AD100 is a list of the top 100 influencers in the field of Architecture and Design by the Architecture Digest Magazine.

Bhavravi (Class 3) celebrated by the Government on Women's Day 2021



Bhavravi Jaani is one of the 71 women achievers celebrated by the Ministry of Women and Child Development, Govt of India, on International Women's Day 2021.

Arunabha (Class 7) appointed as the Co-chair of the energy, environment and the climate change track of STIP 20



The Office of Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India and the Department of Science and Technology (DST) have jointly initiated the process of formulating India's fifth national policy on Science, Technology and Innovation (STI). STIP 2020 is being formulated at a crucial juncture where India and the world is tackling the crisis of COVID-19 pandemic.

As part of the STIP 2020 policy drafting exercise, 21 thematic groups (TGs) have been constituted; about 10,000 people will be consulted in the preparation of STIP 2020 and the thematic groups will provide the technical inputs. Arunabha Ghosh has been appointed as a Co-Chair of the thematic group on Energy, Environment and Climate Change.

He was recently appointed as one of the six members to a high-level panel of the Government of France initiative chaired by Margot Wallström, who served as Sweden's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs until 2019.

[PANDEMIC AND SOCIAL IMPACT]

Project Slate helps less privileged children keep learning during the pandemic



In the age of digitalization, a tab is the new slate. However, in an economically backward state like Odisha, a digital device is a luxury very few can afford. Covid and the digital shift it has brought in the space of education has further eroded the education aspirations of children.

Mira Foundation, instituted by Bajaj Fellow Sukumar Misra (Class 4), has stepped in to fill the gap. It has started Project Slate to distribute 1000 android tablets with internet connectivity. The Foundation has tied-up with Lenovo India for the tabs and Khan Academy for their learning platform for teachers. BYJUS has also come on board with content, providing about INR 25,000 worth of modules free of cost to deserving students in the state.

Project Slate has distributed 200 tabs in the 1st phase. In phase 2, the project is looking at handing out 800 more. Despite generous contributions, funds are a challenge and the team is working to address it in the most strategic way possible.

Amittav (Class 3) is helping five states reform their education system

The Education Alliance (TEA) is a non-profit organisation set up by Bajaj Fellow Amittav Virmani in 2014. It works to overhaul the public education system and impact learning outcomes by helping governments partner with mission-aligned organisations.

Currently, TEA is working with the education department of five states - Delhi, Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh, Tripura, and Gujarat on seven different programs. These are: system reforms, foundational literacy and numeracy, edU-tech, teacher training, NGO partnerships management and initiatives related to COVID.

Sairee (Class 6) collaborates with Google to launch the Internet Saathi Accelerator

SHEROES, founded by Sairee Chahal, launched the Internet Saathi Accelerator in December 2020, in partnership with Google's Internet Saathi programme.

This is a first-of-its-kind structured rural accelerator to support 500+ women micro-entrepreneurs across the country. The programme runs online in six languages and equips the micro-entrepreneurs with digital and financial literacy, marketing and communication skills, mentorship and community support.

SHEROES has also launched SHECO, a social commerce opportunity. First-time women internet users are looking to grow their identity, finances and connections. SHECO will connect the dots between brands, social commerce, and these budding women entrepreneurs.

Karma's (Class 6) news site EastMojo.com grows in strength

EastMojo.com was Karma Paljer's class project during his Kamalnayan Bajaj Fellowship. It inspired him to leave his job at CNN News 18 as a senior journalist and return to the North East. It has been just three years since he made the move and the site already has a foothold of 7 lakh visitors every month. EastMojo.com has been able to place journalists in all the northeast states and connect with stringers in smaller locations. Fellow AGLN fellow Tanushree Hazarika has joined Karma in the journey.

Madhu (Class 7) organized the Dr Maya Rao Kathak and Choreography Conference

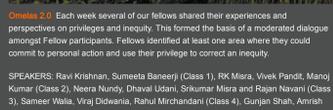
The Dr Maya Rao Kathak and Choreography Conference honours the late Dr Maya Rao, legendary Kathak guru, choreographer, educator, curator and scholar who pioneered the systematic training of dance, created path breaking choreographies that toured over 40 countries and was the recipient of several state, national and international awards.

Spread over two days as a Facebook Live event, the Conference featured performances, dance films and panel discussions by eminent artists from different genres across India and globally. The conference reached over 30,000 people and helped raised funds for around 120 artists impacted by COVID-19.

[DIALOGUES AND CONVERSATIONS]



Women's Group: March 2020 This Kamalnayan Bajaj Fellows' initiative was held virtually in 2020 under the overarching theme How Big is Your Crisis? It recorded the largest number of participants ever and included Fellows from GP Birla Fellowship and the Aspen Global Leadership Network. Speakers included Dr. S. Jaishankar, Neera Nundy, Satvik Varma, Emarine Kharbhih, Shaheena Altamwa, Tanya Amador, Amjad Iqbal, Govind Ethraj, Amittav Virmani and James Abraham were the moderators for the Plenary sessions. We had Maschu Nataraj for a very special morning session: *Mind, Body and Movement*.



Being David James Abraham (Class 3) moderated a series of 10 digital discussions that highlighted how Fellows were responding to COVID situations around them.

SPEAKERS: Anuj Poddar (Class 1), Vikram Misri (Class 2), Amittav Virmani, Neera Nundy, Arun Padmanabhan and Hasina Kharbhih (Class 3), Aditya Soman, Apoor Bajaj and Suparna Singh (Class 4), Shankar Vanavarayar, Nandini Singh, Kalyan Akkipeddi and Kunal Kapoor (Class 5), Amitabh Yash, Ananth Narayanan, Anil Srinivasan, Prashant Agrawal, Shaktika Joshi (Class 6), Prasad Dandekar, Neha Kirpal, Pankaj Sakhi, Amit Vanchoo, Umang Bedi, Maschu Nataraj, Narayan Lakshman and Radhika Prasad (Class 7)



Omelas 2.0 Each week several of our fellows shared their experiences and perspectives on privileges and inequity. This formed the basis of a moderated dialogue amongst fellow participants. Fellows identified at least one area where they could commit to personal action and use their privilege to correct an inequity.

SPEAKERS: Ravi Krishnan, Sumitika Boinraj (Class 1), RK Misra, Vivek Prindti, Manoj Kumar (Class 2), Neera Nundy, Dhaval Udani, Sukumar, Mira and Rajan Navani (Class 3), Sameer Walia, Viraj Didiwala, Rahul Mirchandani (Class 4), Gunjan Shah, Amrith Kumar, Saloni Malhotra, Zeena Johar, Aditya Nataraj (Class 5), Kartik Shiram, Utsav Bajaj, Nyrika Hoiakar, Vinati Kaslia (Class 6), Radhika Prasad, Ajay Nair, Lavanya Nalli (Class 7)



Practice Resurrection This series encouraged the Fellows to introspect on how they would use their privilege to create a more equitable and just world. The sessions were topic based discussions on Education, Healthcare, Adolescent Girls, Volunteerism and Social Contract.



Emerging Leaders Fellowship Aditya (Class 5) moderated the 7th edition of the Emerging Leaders Programme while Pallav and Kalyan moderated the 8th edition. The programme was held virtually.



India-China Fellows roundtable Eight Bajaj Fellows were part of the first India-China Fellows roundtable which was conducted in partnership with China Fellowship of the Aspen Global Leadership Network.



US Election 2020 A conversation with Dr. John J. Henrice in a conversation on US Election 2020. She also moderated a session with Taran Das and Dr. Neushad Forbes on *Is it time to reevaluate India's foreign policy?*



Roundtable with Loneliness Neha Kirpal chaired two roundtables conducted in collaboration with Aspen Digital, USA on Loneliness. Bajaj Fellows who participated in the discussions were Ajay Nair (Class 7), Aarti Wig (Class 7), Sairee Chahal (Class 6), Sugata Srinivasaraju (Class 2) and Saloni Malhotra (Class 5).



Migration series Ananta organized this series in partnership with Indispend. Rohit Poddar (Class 2) and Manoj Kumar (Class 2) were among those who participated in the discussion. Govind (Class 1) moderated the series.



Panelists moderated by Govind Govind also moderated several other sessions for Ananta, which included one with the Australian Ambassador on *Australia and India in the post-Covid-19 world*, a session on the Indian economy post lockdown and a series on *Police and Policing*. Other sessions moderated by Govind were *The Mind Matters* and *Cyber after Corona*.



Seminar on Diversity and Identity James (Class 3) and Sudha (Class 1) moderated the 5 day virtual seminar. Diversity and Identity for TSAALS alumni.



Reshaping Asia's Energy Future: Indo-Japanese Energy Cooperation



India-Japan Partnership Perspectives Series James moderated the session on Reshaping Asia's Energy Future: Indo-Japanese Energy Cooperation. The series also included a conversation with Ambassador Sanghy Kumar Verma on *India-Japan Digital Partnership: Opportunity for Co-creating and Co-innovating*, helmed by Rajan Navani. It explored avenues to transform digital cooperation between India and Japan by accelerating collaborations in the areas of critical infrastructure, information technology, cybersecurity, emerging technologies and start-up ecosystem.

[OTHER SESSIONS]

13th India Israel Forum was Co-chaired by Nikhil (Class 3).
Sudha (Class 1), James (Class 3) and Sameer (Class 4) moderated the virtual mini seminar for the ASEAN India Leaders Fellowship.

Woman Speaks Part 4 & 5 was moderated by Reshma (Class 2) and Part 1 was moderated Amittav (Class 3).

Sameer was the Indian chair for Ananta-SAS Roundtable on India, Singapore and the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence.

NextGen Network AI Workshop 2.0 was moderated by Sameer, and Abheek (Class 4) was the keynote speaker.

Arunabha and Govind moderated the sessions for the series *Between a Rock and a Hard Place: Climate Change and Covid 19*.

An exclusive dialogue, *The Road Ahead*, with three internationally acclaimed Bajaj Fellows who have been honoured by the McNulty Foundation for their ventures - Manoj Srikumar and Govind. The conversation was moderated by James.

Sudha (Class 1) conducted the Masterclasses and Amittav (Class 3) was on the jury for judging the Personality Competition for Wikis 2020.

Tajneet (Class 3) held a Masterclass on *Applying AI and IoT to keep workers safe, and drive productivity in a COVID world*.

[IN THE NEWS]

Charu Sinha (Class 4)
[Charu Sinha - 1st woman IPS officer to serve as CRPF IG, Sinjaraj breaks barriers for them too](#)

Anil Srinivasan (Class 6)
[Kalam: Anil Srinivasan talks about receiving the Kalamamami award](#)

Sugata Srinivasaraju (Class 2)
[Sugata Srinivasaraju: From books and literature to book list and online platform](#)

Umang Bedi (Class 7)
[DailyHunt's Josh raises \\$150 million from Qatar investment Authority and others - just two months after Google and Microsoft made it a unicorn](#)

Neha Kirpal (Class 7)
[Investor: From Wall Street to social impact](#)

Reshma Anand (Class 2)
[Women bear the burden of India's water crisis](#)

Manoj Kumar (Class 6)
[India has the potential of becoming the food basket of the world, says Araku coffee's CEO Manoj Kumar](#)

Neera Nundy (Class 3)
[Neera Nundy: From Wall Street to social impact](#)

Mishri Choudhary (Class 6)
[Misra: She is not a person to be pitied, she is essential - how to build trust which is totally absent in today's job process](#)

[NEW ROLES]

Amik Sinha (Class 4) is now the President, Group Strategy, Mahindra and Mahindra

Ajey Nair (Class 7) is now CEO, Swasth

Srinjay Jaju (Class 1) is now the Additional Secretary, Department of Defence Production

Nikhil Sawhney (Class 3) is now the Chairman of Civil, Northern Region

Charu Sinha (Class 4) is now the Inspector General (IG) Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), Sirmagar sector

Amitabh Yash (Class 6) is now the Additional Director General of Police, Lucknow

K Nandini Singh (Class 5) is the new High Commissioner of India to Mauritius

