



## PROGRAMME REPORT

A MENTORSHIP PROGRAM  
FOR THE YOUTH FROM THE  
ADIVASI AND TEA WORKERS'  
COMMUNITIES OF ASSAM

# SANGHE URAB 2022



**PREPARED AND PRESENTED BY**

**INJOT TRUST**

[WWW.INJOTTRUST.ORG](http://WWW.INJOTTRUST.ORG)



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**Injot Trust**



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**Injot Trust**

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Photo Credit: Binai Toppo for Injot Trust, Injot Team and Sanghe Urab 2022 Participants

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# ABOUT INJOT TRUST



Injot Trust is a not-for-profit organization based in Guwahati (Assam, India). Ms. Anjali Tirkey, the founder-director of Injot is a photo essayist, feature writer and philanthropist. Injot's work mainly emphasises on community development, education and advocacy of human rights for the Adivasi population of Assam.

When covid-19 lockdown was imposed all over the country, Injot had started doing relief work in various places of Assam, however, the organisation was officially established on the 9th of August 2020 which is also celebrated as International Day of World's Indigenous people. Injot's allegiance to work for the Adivasi and tea workers' community of Assam, to restore & honour the ancestral wisdom of the indigenous peoples and to work in coexistence with our

past, present and future. The foundation day as 9th August seemed most relevant.

## **Injot Vision**

We visualise a self-reliant Adivasi society with a life of dignity through preservation of ancestral heritage, and social, economic and political empowerment.

## **Injot Mission**

Empower the Adivasi community of Assam to make informed choices for a progressive future through

- interventions for healing of generational trauma,
- an all-rounded educational approach for children, youth and adults,
- and promotion of and training in livelihood alternatives and enterprise.



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# ABOUT INJOT TRUST

## KEY AREAS OF WORK

**Injot Education:** Injot runs three community learning centres which provides supplementary education and experiential education to underprivileged students especially those, who were left behind in the online education system. Slowly and steadily students are learning to express themselves through art & craft, discovering the joy of books, learning about indigenous seeds and plants and much more. Injot has also started JNV coaching for some of its brighter students under the area of Education.

As a part of Injot Education and advocacy, Injot has initiated a four-month mentorship program **Sanghe Urab** for selected 40 youths from the Adivasi and tea garden youth in a hybrid form of online and offline sessions. The mentees are trained by experts from various fields and different parts of country and abroad. It also ran a volunteer led IT skills training program for youths in Kokrajhar. Two youths from the batch were offered training and internship with Pune based company.

For community leaders, **Jameen** - a training and advocacy program on land literacy is organised by Injot Trust as online sessions and offline trainings and conferences.

**Shramik** program builds awareness on labour laws for the Adivasi and

tea workers' community as online and offline sessions. The offline sessions, though, is often combined with other ally programmes of Injot.

**Injot Livelihood:** Injot forms linkages for various SHGs and community members for various livelihood schemes and social assistance schemes introduced by the government and facilitates training in livelihood work. Injot hopes to dwell deeper in this area in the coming years

**Injot Gender:** Injot works with women of the community to create awareness about reproductive and sexual health and rights. Adult education classes for women have also started as part of Injot Gender.

**Injot Relief:** Injot provides need-based relief in the communities with Injot's presence by networking through various organisation and raising relief-oriented donations.

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# SANGHE URAB- INTRODUCTION

Sanghe Urab means “Let's Fly Together” in Sadri language - the lingua franca of Adivasis in Assam. It is a four-phase intervention program to mentor and train educated youth from the Adivasi and the tea workers' community in self-awareness, community development, employability and entrepreneurship.

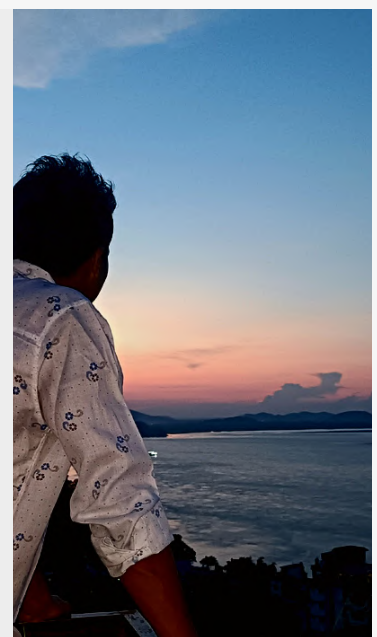
In the year 2021, Sanghe Urab commenced in the month of July 2021 and concluded in October 2021 at Kohora, Golaghat. In 2022, Sanghe Urab followed the 4 phases of training with minor changes. The first three phases were conducted online and the final phase was conducted as a 5 days and nights residential program in Don Bosco Youth Mission and Educational Services (DBI), Kharghuli, Guwahati, Kamrup (Metro) district. The total number of participants enrolled for the program in 2022 was 40.

Sanghe Urab is a first of its kind program that has created a platform for Adivasi youth to interact with experts and facilitators from diverse professional backgrounds - from senior government officials to social development workers, RTI activists, corporate professionals, entrepreneurs, community mobilisers, conflict management experts, indigenous culture and heritage experts amongst many more.

Sanghe Urab is carefully designed and curated for Adivasi youth interested in self development, and in solving problems faced by marginalised communities, and those who are open to new experiences and learning

## PROGRAMME GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Sanghe Urab, wants to give exposure on various topics through expert facilitators to the selected 40 youths each year. We envisage that with this programme, we enable the youths to take pride and find purpose in their existence. The program follows the 3-fold steps of Injot - Heal Educate Empower and through these steps we lead the participants to understand themselves, the community, understand the issues and potential solutions. We educate them about the heritage, the skills and knowledge that help in employment or entrepreneurship. We guide them towards social justice, leadership and various schemes by the government and towards a life vision so that they come about as empowered individuals and changemakers for the society.

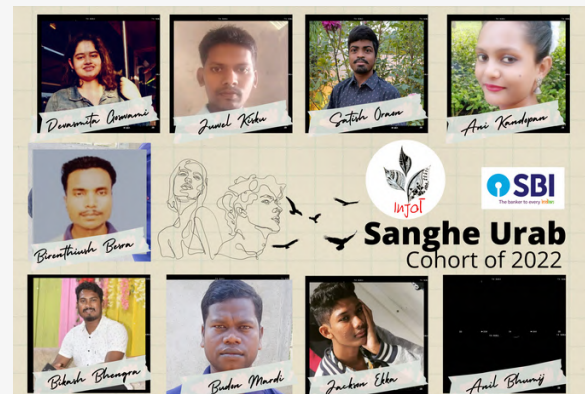




# THE COHORT OF 2022

THE PARTICIPANTS OF SANGHE URAB 2022 WERE A DIVERSE MIX DESPITE THE FACT THAT THEY CAME FROM A SIMILAR HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The youth participants (20 years above) were from different parts of Assam like the districts of Golaghat, Lakhimpur, Sonitpur, Udalguri, Kokrajhar, Dibrugarh, Kamrup Metro, Tinsukia, Baksa and Barpeta and belonging to various fields and diverse backgrounds. They were students, professionals, unemployed youth, NGO workers, community mobilisers, entrepreneurs and civil servant aspirants.



# PHASES OF SANGHE URAB

## PHASE 1: IDENTITY, EMOTIONS AND COMMUNITY

Phase one of Sanghe Urab was conducted online in the month of July and consisted of 5 online sessions:

**Session 1:** Titled 'The First Flight' conducted by Injot Core Team - Founder Director Anjali Tirkey, Trustee Arindita Gogoi and Former Trustee Wilson Hasda, Sanghe Urab started with expectation setting, self portrait, segment on choices and consequences and setting intentions for the program.

**Session 2:** Titled 'The I and We of Me' conducted by Play for Peace Co-Founders in India - Swati Bhatt and Agyatmitra focused on identity and emotions.

**Session 3:** Titled 'Dreaming for Me and for Us' was conducted by Anjali Tirkey, the Founder Director and a photoessayist and feature writer. Renowned poet and journalist Jacinta Kerketta shared field stories and her experiences. The session focused on Adivasi movements and collective dreams and goals.

**Session 4:** Titled 'Of Sounds, Symbols and Stories' conducted by Founder Director of Injot - Anjali Tirkey and Adivasi community leaders Wilfred Topno and Anupchand Minj focused on Adivasi heritage, language and culture and how they shape our individual and collective identity.

**Session 5:** Titled 'Vulnerability - a Birthplace of Creativity' conducted by experiential educators Ajatshatru and Arindita Gogoi, focused on understanding our emotions and how to transform vulnerable spaces.

**Sanghe Urab 2022**  
A mentorship program for Adivasi youth of Assam  
July to October 2022

**Session 1**  
*The First Flight*  
Saturday, July 9, 2022 @05:30 pm

**Facilitators:**  
Expectation Setting | Organisation and Program Overview | Self Portrait | Choices and Consequences | The Spelling Book | What Changed My Story? | Project Introduction | Introduction

**ANJALI TIRKEY**  
The Founder Director of Injot Trust, and a professional photo essayist and feature writer. Anjali has worked for the last 20 years in the field of indigenous workers and indigenous movements. She has been actively represented their cause in the US. She has been actively involved with the plantation workers and indigenous movements and social justice movements. She has been actively involved in the development sector for many years. She has been working with the National Council of Educational Research and Training since 2007. She has been working with the National Council of Educational Research and Training since 2007. She has been working with the National Council of Educational Research and Training since 2007.

**WILSON HASDA**  
He is currently the Executive Member (PSC) of ITC and a Founding Trustee of Injot Trust. He is a social leader and public speaker. He has been actively involved with the plantation workers and indigenous movements and social justice movements. He has been actively involved in the development sector for many years. He has been working with the National Council of Educational Research and Training since 2007. He has been working with the National Council of Educational Research and Training since 2007. He has been working with the National Council of Educational Research and Training since 2007.

**ARINDITA GOGOI**  
She is the Trustee of Injot Trust and is an experienced educator, writer, columnist and filmmaker. Currently she is the Vice President of Injot Trust. She has been actively involved in the development sector for many years. She has been working with the National Council of Educational Research and Training since 2007. She has been working with the National Council of Educational Research and Training since 2007. She has been working with the National Council of Educational Research and Training since 2007.

**Sanghe Urab 2022**  
A mentorship program for Adivasi youth of Assam  
July to October 2022

**Session 2**  
*The I and We of Me*  
Saturday, July 16, 2022 @05:30 pm

**Facilitators:**  
My Dreams | My Life | My Story | Understanding Identity | The Story of My Name | Identity Game

**REQUIREMENTS:**  
A digital device with video and sound | Internet connectivity | Zoom App | Facebook | Pen | Colours and any other stationary (optional)

**SWATI BHATT**  
Swati is an experienced educator with an extensive work experience of 24 years. She conducts training for youth, children and organizations across India as Co-Founder of Play for Peace Institute in India. She has also worked with various communities across India and across the globe. Her work includes conducting workshops with various communities in India, Vietnam, Thailand, Pakistan, Israel, Greece, Italy and South Africa.

**AGYATMITRA**  
A former teacher, an entrepreneur and a film engineer, Agyat moved to the field of experiential learning and has been practicing Play for Peace methodologies for content creation and production for 23 years. He has worked with various communities across India and across the globe. His work includes conducting workshops with various communities in India, Vietnam, Thailand, Pakistan, Israel, Greece, Italy and South Africa. He has also worked with various communities in India, Vietnam, Thailand, Pakistan, Israel, Greece, Italy and South Africa.

**Sanghe Urab 2022**  
A mentorship program for Adivasi youth of Assam  
July to October 2022

**Session 3**  
*Dreaming for me and for us*  
Saturday, July 23, 2022 @05:30 pm

**Facilitators:**  
My Dreams | Adivasi Dreams and Movements | Understanding One's Role | Adivasi Legends and Change Makers | Me and Us as the Changemaker

**REQUIREMENTS:**  
A digital device with video and sound | Zoom App | Internet connectivity | Pen | Colours and any other stationary (optional)

**ANJALI TIRKEY**  
The Founder Director of Injot Trust, and a professional photo essayist and feature writer. Anjali has worked for the last 20 years in the field of indigenous workers and indigenous movements. She has been actively represented their cause in the US. She has been actively involved with the plantation workers and indigenous movements and social justice movements. She has been actively involved in the development sector for many years. She has been working with the National Council of Educational Research and Training since 2007. She has been working with the National Council of Educational Research and Training since 2007. She has been working with the National Council of Educational Research and Training since 2007.

**JACINTA KERKETTA**  
A poet, a writer, a filmmaker and a social worker, Jacinta has been working in the field of indigenous workers and indigenous movements for over 20 years. She has been actively involved with the plantation workers and indigenous movements and social justice movements. She has been actively involved in the development sector for many years. She has been working with the National Council of Educational Research and Training since 2007. She has been working with the National Council of Educational Research and Training since 2007. She has been working with the National Council of Educational Research and Training since 2007.

**Sanghe Urab 2022**  
A mentorship program for Adivasi youth of Assam  
July to October 2022

**Session 4**  
*Of Sounds, Symbols & Stories*  
Saturday, July 30, 2022 @05:30 pm

**Facilitators:**  
Adivasi Heritage | Language and Culture | How they shape our individual and collective identity

**ANJALI TIRKEY**  
The Founder Director of Injot Trust, and a professional photo essayist and feature writer. Anjali has worked for the last 20 years in the field of indigenous workers and indigenous movements. She has been actively represented their cause in the US. She has been actively involved with the plantation workers and indigenous movements and social justice movements. She has been actively involved in the development sector for many years. She has been working with the National Council of Educational Research and Training since 2007. She has been working with the National Council of Educational Research and Training since 2007. She has been working with the National Council of Educational Research and Training since 2007.

**WILFRED TOPNO**  
A community leader, author of several books about Adivasi languages, associate of Adivasi rights and a former teacher, Wilfred Topno is currently the Director of Peoples Action for Development (PAD) and has been a founding member of and advisor to many Adivasi groups in Assam. He is the publisher of Adivasi News Magazine and the founder of Adivasi Sahitya Sabha. He also coordinates St. Don Bosco LP School and Adivasiya School.

**ANUPCHAND MINJ**  
Anupchand Minj worked as a teacher, social worker and lawyer in Assam and Andaman and Nicobar Islands for several years before moving back to his home state, Assam. A graduate of engineering, especially against marginalized people always disturbed him. He found the RTI Act 2005 to be a powerful tool for ordinary citizens and became an RTI cop. Knowledge of Adivasi languages has helped him connect to the grassroots and understand the cultural context of lives and matters in the field.

**Sanghe Urab 2022**  
A mentorship program for Adivasi youth of Assam  
July to October 2022

**Session 5**  
*Vulnerability - a Birthplace of Creativity*  
Sunday, July 31st, 2022 @05:30 pm

**Facilitators:**  
The Journey of Emotional My Inner World | Emotions - a Deep Dive | Vulnerability - a Birthplace of Creativity

**REQUIREMENTS:**  
A digital device with video and sound | Internet connectivity | Zoom App | Notebook | Pen | Colours and any other stationary

**ARINDITA GOGOI**  
She is the Trustee of Injot Trust and is an experienced educator, writer, columnist and filmmaker. Currently she is the Vice President of Injot Trust. She has been actively involved in the development sector for many years. She has been working with the National Council of Educational Research and Training since 2007. She has been working with the National Council of Educational Research and Training since 2007. She has been working with the National Council of Educational Research and Training since 2007.

**AJATSHATRU**  
From being a computer programmer and a practice teacher, Ajatshatru has been a social worker and educator. He has been working with various communities across India, Nepal, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Greece and Greece. He has been working with various communities across India, Nepal, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Greece and Greece. He has been working with various communities across India, Nepal, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Greece and Greece. He has been working with various communities across India, Nepal, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Greece and Greece.



# PHASES OF SANGHE URAB

## PHASE 2: CAREER GOALS & EMPLOYABILITY

Phase two of Sanghe Urab was conducted online in the month of August and consisted of 5 online sessions:

**Session 1:** Titled 'Youth and conservation-a few insights, skills and career opportunities' was conducted by Dr Sonali Ghosh, IFS, Chief conservator of Forests, Rita Banerji, Founder of Green Hub Project and Injot's Founder Director Anjali Turkey. While the first two facilitators focused on nature and conservation and careers around it, Anjali Turkey talked about nature and cultural practices of Adivasis as a career/entrepreneurial opportunity. The participants also interacted with Green Hub Fellow Epil Kongari who is also a Global Sustainability Film Awards 2022 Youth Ambassador, and Range Forest Officer Nigar Sultana.

**Session 2:** Titled 'Career goals and building one's resume' conducted by Injot Team of Founder Anjali Turkey and Trustee Arindita Gogoi.

**Session 3:** Titled 'Curating our digital footprint to leverage our career' was conducted by Chandini Varma, Director of Digital Media at PHD UAE and Injot Trustee Arindita Gogoi.

**Session 4:** Titled 'Skilling and Empowerment: Direct Proportionality' conducted by Nabajit Bharali, State Project Manager, Skills and Placement at Assam State Rural Livelihoods Mission, Govt of Assam

**Session 5:** Titled 'Life Goals, Time Management and Prioritisation' was facilitated by Injot Trustee and educator Arindita Gogoi.

**Sanghe Urab 2022**  
A mentorship program for Adivasi youth of Assam July to October 2022  
**Phase 2 Session 1**  
Youth and Conservation - a few insights, skills and career opportunities  
Saturday, August 6, 2022 @05:30 pm

**DR. SONALI GHOSH IFS**  
Currently the Chief Conservator of Forests, Assam. Dr. Sonali is an Indian Forest Service officer with more than 23 years of work experience in the field of wildlife and natural heritage management in India. She has a dual master's degree in wildlife science and forestry, and a PhD in Geography from UK. A co-author of 2 books, Cultural Landscapes of Asia and Wild Heritage: reflections on natural heritage in Asia. Her research, her current research interests include E-sites conservation, Protected Area Governance and exploring nature-culture linkages for heritage conservation.

**RITA BANERJI**  
Founder of the Green Hub Project that leverages the power of youth in conservation and social change through the digital medium. Rita initiated the Green Hub in the northeast of India in 2015, in collaboration with World Land Network and has expanded to Central India in 2021. Rita is an Ashoka fellow and works through her organisation Duty Free Foundation.

**ANJALI TURKEY**  
The Founder Director of Injot Trust, and a professional photo essayist and feature writer. Anjali has worked for the Tea Plantation Workers and indigenous communities for 20 years and represented their cause in the UN. She has been actively involved with tea plantation workers that includes making documentaries and photo features highlighting Adivasi heritage and human rights issues faced by the community. An avid traveller, and deep sea and wreck diver, she is also the recipient of the Excellence in Journalism Award by UCIP in 2007.

**Sanghe Urab 2022**  
A mentorship program for Adivasi youth of Assam July to October 2022  
**Phase 2 Session 5**  
Life Goals, Time Management and Prioritisation  
Sunday, August 28, 2022 @05:30 pm

**ARINDITA GOGOI**  
She is the Trustee of Injot Trust and is an experiential educator, expressive art facilitator and trainer. Currently she is the Vice Principal of a school in Telangana. She has been working with children and adults across geographies since 2007. She has facilitated at PYE Global's Power of Hope Camp (Whitby Island, USA) and regularly mentors ITI trainees, teachers and facilitators. Prior to working in education, she has worked in media, television production and book publishing.

Principal Sponsor

**Sanghe Urab 2022**  
A mentorship program for Adivasi youth of Assam July to October 2022  
**Phase 2 Session 2**  
Career Goals and Building One's Resume  
Saturday, August 13, 2022 @05:30 pm

**ARINDITA GOGOI**  
She is the Trustee of Injot Trust and is an experiential educator, expressive art facilitator and trainer. Currently she is the Vice Principal of a school in Telangana. She has been working with children and adults across geographies since 2007. She has facilitated at PYE Global's Power of Hope Camp (Whitby Island, USA) and regularly mentors ITI trainees, educators and facilitators. Prior to venturing into education and facilitation, she worked in television production, documentary filmmaking and book publishing.

**ANJALI TURKEY**  
The Founder Director of Injot Trust, and a professional photo essayist and feature writer. Anjali has worked for the Tea Plantation Workers and indigenous communities for 20 years and represented their cause in the UN. She has been actively involved with tea plantation workers that includes making documentaries and photo features highlighting Adivasi heritage and human rights issues faced by the community. An avid traveller, and deep sea and wreck diver, she is also the recipient of the Excellence in Journalism Award by UCIP in 2007.

Principal Sponsor

**Sanghe Urab 2022**  
A mentorship program for Adivasi youth of Assam July to October 2022  
**Phase 2 Session 3**  
Curating Our Digital Footprint to Leverage Our Career  
Saturday, August 20, 2022 @05:30 pm

**CHANDINI VARMA**  
Currently the Director of Digital Media in Dubai based company PHD, she has over a decade of experience in digital media marketing. She is a post graduate from Falmouth University, UK and a graduate from Oriel University, Canada. She is passionate about theatre and regularly directs plays, and is now pursuing her interest in filmmaking.

**ARINDITA GOGOI**  
She is the Trustee of Injot Trust and is an experiential educator, expressive art facilitator and trainer. Currently she is the Vice Principal of a school in Telangana. She has been working with children and adults across geographies since 2007. She has facilitated at PYE Global's Power of Hope Camp (Whitby Island, USA) and regularly mentors ITI trainees, teachers and facilitators. Prior to working in education, she has worked in media, television production and book publishing.

Principal Sponsor

**Sanghe Urab 2022**  
A mentorship program for Adivasi youth of Assam July to October 2022  
**Phase 2 Session 4**  
Skilling and Empowerment: Direct Proportionality  
Saturday, August 27, 2022 @05:30 pm

**NABAJIT BHARALI**  
Currently working as State Project Manager, Skills & Placement at Assam State Rural Livelihoods Mission, Govt of Assam. Mr. Bharali completed MBA (Marketing) from University of Wales, UK and has more than 14 years of experience in various fields like Skill Development, Livelihood, Micro-Finance, FMCG etc. He has cross-sectoral experience in both Govt and Private services spectrum primarily in managerial capacities.

Principal Sponsor

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# PHASES OF SANGHE URAB

## PHASE 3: ASSIGNMENTS- REVIEW AND FEEDBACK

Phase three of Sanghe Urab was conducted online in the month of September and consisted of 2 online sessions that was dedicated to review the various assignments given to the participants.

## PHASE 4: 5 DAYS OF RESIDENTIAL PROGRAMME



Phase four of Sanghe Urab 2022 consisted of five days and nights of residential programme organised at Don Bosco Youth Mission and Educational Services (DBI), Kharghuli, Guwahati, Kamrup (Metro) district from the 2nd of October to the 6th. The residential phase saw participants from 2022, alumni of 2021, volunteer participants from Injot Team and thirteen facilitators from Assam and other states of India.

**SANGHE URAB IS NOT ABOUT PATRONISING THE YOUTH TO CHOOSE WHAT WE THINK IS GOOD FOR THEM, BUT TO EMPOWER THEM TO MAKE INFORMED CHOICES FOR THEMSELVES AND THE COMMUNITY.**

ANJALI TIRKEY, FOUNDER DIRECTOR, INJOT TRUST & PHOTO-ESSAYIST





# PROGRAMME DAYS

## DAY ONE

### TRADITIONAL WELCOME, REGISTRATION, INTRODUCTION & MORE

On the 2nd of October 2022, participants of Sanghe Urab 2022, a couple of alumni from 2021 and the volunteers from Injot team reached the venue of Don Bosco Youth Mission and Educational Services ( DBI), Kharghuli, Guwahati, Kamrup ( Metro). They were welcomed with Adivasi rituals of washing the hands and anointing with water and were given a program kit after the registration and room assignment.

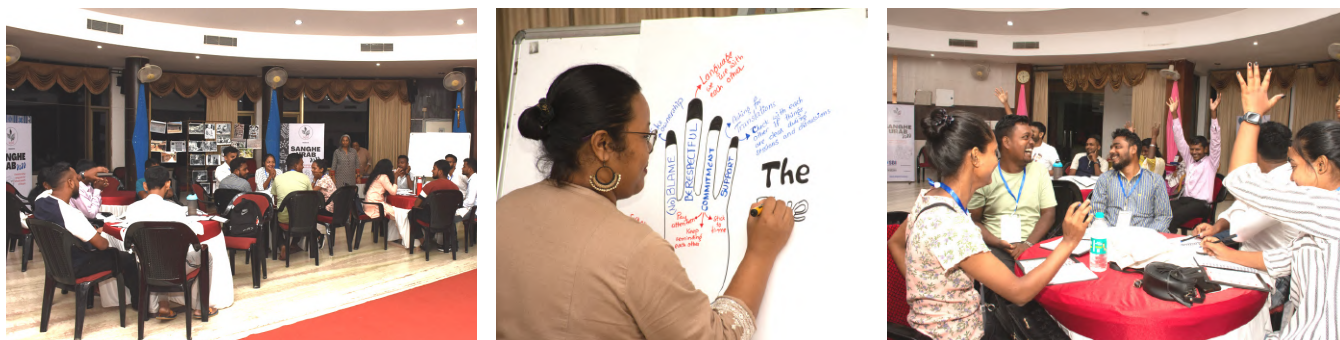
The Founder Director of Injot Trust, Anjali Tirkey welcomed the participants and Trustee Arindita Gogoi introduced the organisation and mentioned the support of State Bank of India as the principal sponsor and Oil India Limited as co-sponsor.

A session on diversity, stereotypes, prejudices, inclusion, equity and social justice was conducted by Anjali Tirkey allowing the participants to understand and marvel at the diversity within them and identify the commonalities too and be inclusive in action.

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# PROGRAMME DAYS

## DAY ONE



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The session was followed by an ice breaker game through which by Swati Bhatt and Agyatmitra, the cofounders of Play for Peace organisation created an opportunity for the participants to introduce themselves to each other. The day was spent in creating norms and expectations for the program. Participants displayed their intention flags and learnt the expression of gratitude.

## DAY TWO

### SESSIONS, ACTIVITIES, LISTENING TO STORIES, REFLECTIONS & MORE

The day started with an energizer and then Mr. Anupchand Minj, lawyer and RTI expert conducted a session on Understanding RTI Act 2005 and it's worth as powerful tool for information, transparency and accountability. The participants practiced writing applications under RTI on issues that concerned them.

Dr. JB Ekka IAS, Principal Secretary, Government of Assam conducted a session on the second day. "Don't wait for the perfect conditions - start with what you have in hand and keep building on it. When you arrive at one goal, it does not mean it is the end - it only means you have to work hard and maintain that excellence, till you arrive at the next pit stop," he advised the participants citing his own journey from a typical Adivasi home, to MBBS in AIIMS, New Delhi, his IAS journey followed by his Masters in Public Health from Johns Hopkins University,



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# PROGRAMME DAYS

## DAY TWO



The sessions were followed by an activity led by experiential educator and Injot Trustee, Arindita Gogoi and Play for Peace co-founders, Swati Bhatt and Agyatmitra during which the participants created zines (mini-magazines) describing their identity and journey so far in Sanghe Urab. Such explorations of emotions and creativity gave an opportunity to participants to delve deep into their selves and look for an individual as well as collective vision.

Founder Director, photo-essayist and the lead catalyst of Sanghe Urab, Anjali Tirkey took a session on land and Adivasis. She shared with the participants the value and worth of land for an Adivasi who has not just a socio-economic relationship with land but his/her spiritual belief, identity and existence and survival is based on land. She talked about the various policies and the issues of land alienation and potential solutions.

The evening was spent listening to stories of Adivasi heroes and sheroes - an assignment given to the participants during the Phase one of program to research and document lives of legends of national and international stature and also of the unknown heroes living in our neighbourhood and working tirelessly to bring a change in the Adivasi society.



# PROGRAMME DAYS



THE SESSION ON RTI BY ANUPCHAND MINJ SIR GAVE ME KNOWLEDGE ABOUT THE ACT. THE PROCEDURES AND USAGES WERE EXPLAINED SO CLEARLY. DR. EKKA'S PERSONALITY WAS VERY IMPRESSIVE. HIS WORDS AND LIFE STORY INSPIRED ME AND MADE BE UNDERSTAND THAT IF ONE IS PASSIONATE ABOUT ONES DREAMS AND IS READY TO WORK HARD, BE CONSISTENT IN PURSUIT AND HAS PERSEVERANCE, NOTHING CAN STOP THE PERSON.

MILIKA TOPNO, PARTICIPANT

IN SANGHE URAB ADIVASI IDENTITY IS EVIDENT IN ITS EVERY ASPECT. I WAS VERY IMPRESSED BY THE FACT THAT THE PARTICIPANTS TOOK VERY ACTIVE PART. THEY WERE WELL AWARE OF ADIVASI ISSUES. THE ACTION PLANS EACH PARTICIPANT DREW REVEAL GOOD UNDERSTANDING OF THE ISSUES AND THE CLARITY OF INTERVENTION. THE RELEVANT TOPICS AND THE RESOURCE PERSONS WITH VAST EXPERIENCES AND KNOWLEDGE, I BELIEVE, WILL EMPOWER THE PARTICIPANTS TO CONTRIBUTE TOWARDS THE ADIVASI COMMUNITY.

DR. HIPPOLETUS TOPPO, PRINCIPAL & SCHOLAR





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# PROGRAMME DAYS

## DAY THREE



### CULTURE & LANGUAGE, LAND LITERACY, PLAY FOR PEACE & REVIEW

Day 3 started with the beat of drums and rhythm of steps dancing with the melody of Adivasi songs. Mr. Wilfred Topno, President of Adivasi Sahitya Sabha and Director of Peoples' Action for Development, took the session on Adivasi culture and languages and how language is the treasure trove of our history, belief system and identity. In Phase 1 of Sanghe Urab, the importance of tribal languages and practice of traditional festivals, their ecological significance was given emphasis by Anjali Turkey. The session filled the participants with pride for the ancestral knowledge.

The session with Mr. Nazrul Islam IAS (Retd.), an expert par excellence on land matters and consultant to the Govt. of Assam on land literacy covering the topics of land vocabulary, procedures, land laws, Right to Public Services and Integrated Land Records Management System laid the foundation to exploring solutions for the grave issue of land alienation among the Adivasi community.



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# PROGRAMME DAYS

## DAY THREE



The participants were also able to meet and interact with community leaders working in the field on land issues under the guidance of Mr. Islam, IAS ( Retd.) under the flagship programme Jameen- an advocacy and training initiative by Injot Trust on land literacy. The interactions were motivating for everyone.

Play of Peace sessions conducted by Agyatmitra, Swati Bhatt and Arindita Gogoi rewired the minds of the participants and guided them towards leadership skills, risk taking and creativity. The participants composed songs of various genre like rap music which proclaimed the struggles and strengths of the community from their collective living experiences.

The facilitators also joined Injot Founder Director and Trustee, Anjali Tirkey and Arindita Gogoi in reviewing the various assignments given to the participants during the online phases especially the resume building.



# PROGRAMME DAYS



SANGHE URAB PROGRAM AND ESPECIALLY THE RESIDENTIAL PHASE HAS BROADENED MY MIND AND MADE BE AWARE ABOUT VARIOUS ASPECTS OF OUR SOCIETY. I CAME TO KNOW ABOUT MATTERS RELATED TO LAND, FOREST, GOVT. SCHEMES, LABOUR LAWS AND RIGHTS OF THE TEA GARDEN WORKERS, LABOUR CARD, RTI, AND ALSO EXCITING GAMES. I HAVE GAINED KNOWLEDGE THAT I CAN SHARE WITH MY RELATIVES AND NEIGHBOURS. AFTER LOOKING AT INJOT TRUST'S WORK I AM ALSO MOTIVATED TO HELP OUR COMMUNITY; IT MAY NOT BE BIG BUT AT LEAST IN SMALL WAYS.

ROSHAN KANDULNA, PARTICIPANT

SANGHE URAB IS A VERY INSPIRING NAME HINTING ON UNITY AND PROGRESS. I HAVE BEEN ASSOCIATED WITH THE PROGRAM SINCE 2021 AND I LIKE THAT WE SENSITISE THE PARTICIPANTS ABOUT VARIOUS FIELDS EARLY IN LIFE. THE SAME CAN BE TALKED ABOUT MY SESSION ON LAND LITERACY. I WAS SURPRISED IN A GOOD WAY TO SEE THEIR DEEP INTEREST ON LAND MATTERS. I LIKED THE QUESTIONS AND INTERACTION WITH THE YOUTH. I HOPE THE YOUTHS TURN INTO RESPONSIBLE MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY.

NAZRUL ISLAM IAS ( RETD), EXPERT ON LAND MATTERS AND CONSULTANT, GOVT OF ASSAM





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# PROGRAMME DAYS

## DAY FOUR



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The day started with Dr. J B Ekka, IAS Principal Secretary, Govt of Assam providing the participant an understanding of various universal schemes and social assistances and entitlements and citizens right to public services. His session covered the schemes implemented by different Departments of the Government which can be availed by the community.

This was followed by a session on skills and livelihood and their direct impact on the employment and empowerment of the community by Mr. Nabajit Bharali, State Project Manager, Skills & Placement, ASRLM. He highlighted the problems of unemployment and informed the participants about the various skill training schemes being implemented by the Assam Govt. which are all free of costs. He hoped the participants would avail the opportunity and share these information with 10 more who will further share with others and thus help in creating an informed community.

The session of Play for Peace again created a non-competitive and non-judgmental space to reflect and practice the learning of the day.





# PROGRAMME DAYS



THIS IS MY FIRST TIME AT SANGHE URAB. I TOOK AN ONLINE SESSION DURING THE PHASE ON CAREER GOALS AND EMPLOYABILITY AND NOW ONE DURING THE RESIDENTIAL PHASE WHERE THE ENERGY OF THE PARTICIPANTS THAT I NOTICED WAS PRAISEWORTHY. I HOPE THEY CARRY THIS ENTHUSIASM WHEN THEY GO BACK TO THEIR HOMES AND SHARE THEIR NEWLY ACQUIRED KNOWLEDGE WITH OTHERS. I MARVEL AT THE HOLISTIC LEARNING AND MENTORSHIP INJOT TRUST IS PROVIDING. IT'S IMPORTANT TO BE FIRM IN ONE'S ROOT IF ONE WANTS TO GROW TALL.

NABAJIT BHARALI, STATE PROJECT MANAGER,  
SKILLS & PLACEMENT, ASSAM STATE RURAL  
LIVELIHOODS MISSION

I HAVE NEVER PARTICIPATED IN ANY PROGRAM LIKE SANGHE URAB BEFORE. THERE ARE MANY SCHEMES OF THE GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM THAT I LEARNED ABOUT. I HOPE TO TELL OTHERS ABOUT THEM. I LEARNED ABOUT OUR ART AND CULTURE. I WANT TO LEARN MY LANGUAGE WELL AND TEACH IT TO OTHERS. I DIDN'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT RTI. THERE IS A CASE ABOUT OUR MISSING RELATIVE WITH THE POLICE AND WE HAVE NO INFORMATION. I MAY FILE A RTI ON THIS, I WANT TO UPDATE OUR LAND DOCUMENTS. JAMEEN SESSION MADE ME AWARE. I WOULD ALSO HELP THOSE WHO HAVE NOT YET REGISTERED THEIR LANDS.

ANIL TUPUT, PARTICIPANT



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# PROGRAMME DAYS

## DAY FOUR



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Late afternoon the participants spent time with Ms. Runa Rafique, livestock entrepreneur and farmer understanding her life story from a social development professional working with international organisations to farming. She left a powerful impression on many participants especially those with a dream to take up entrepreneurial activities.

The participants spent the later part of the evening planning a cultural evening for the last day and enjoying solo time to delve deeper into their selves.

## DAY FIVE

**ADIVASI HERITAGE, CONSERVATION AS CAREER OPPORTUNITIES, LEADING & LEARNING, CLOSING REFLECTIONS AND CULTURAL EVENING**

Dr. Hippoletus Toppo, Principal Don Bosco School, Rowta and scholar and writer of few books on Adivasi festivals and folklores started the morning session introducing the participants to the Adivasi heritage of music and songs, festivals and the ecological connections, the ancestral religion and lifestyle of co-existence and respect for each element of nature and how they stand true in the present and in many ways is the need of the hour when the fabric of society and the climate is at threat.

His session flowed into a highly engaging time with Dr. Sonali Ghosh IFS, Chief Conservator of Assam, She talked about Youth and conservation in which she focused on how young people can take up conservation and nature centric careers and they may come more easily to Adivasi youth as the community has strong knowledge of local biodiversity. The participants shared their experiences of the wild and it was obvious that many had good knowledge about Assam's flora and fauna.



# PROGRAMME DAYS

## DAY FIVE



Ms. Keethi Jalli IAS, Deputy Commissioner of Kamrup Rural district, had an interactive session with the participants revolving around the topic of Leading and Learning. The activity, that involved loud music, dancing and at the same time learning something from the other in a limited time, allowed the participants to realise that life can be a chaos often and yet there can be learning and multitasking. She gave examples from her personal life also and shared how she has overcome her own fears and tried to do the best and how she is always open to learning. Many of the participants who had seen her videos and read about her exemplary work during flood in Cachar district were thrilled to meet her.





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# PROGRAMME DAYS

## DAY FIVE



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The sessions ended with experiential educator and trustee Arindita Cogoi and Play for Peace practitioner Agyatmitra guiding the participants through closing reflections on the learning and experiences and memories the participants had gathered during Sanghe Urab. The participants were encouraged to reaffirm their commitments towards themselves.

Though during the program, some of the participants and facilitators fell ill and a few left for their homes, the spirit of learning never got subdued. The Founder Director, Ms. Anjali Tirkey, took care with medicines and brought home-cooked food as per the needs of the sick each day.

## CULTURAL EVENING AND CLOSING

### EXPRESSIONS, TALENTS AND JOY OF LEARNING AND BONDING

The last evening was the time where the participants were asked to take the lead and plan the evening. Dressed in traditional fineries, the participants welcomed the facilitators according to the traditional Adivasi practices. They curated a cultural program which had songs in the mother-tongues of participants, dances that belonged to their tribes and dances that also were based on modern dancing. It was an evening where all proclaimed through the dancing their a new found respect for cultural roots, heritage and ancestral wisdom; every dance step an affirmation of hope and a united and progressive Adivasi society.

It was an evening dedicated to the 4 months of journey and friendship made and the sound of the mandar reverberated the feeling late till dinner time and later.

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# PROGRAMME DAYS



THIS IS OUR SECOND YEAR WITH SANGHE URAB AND WE FEEL AS A PART OF THE TEAM NOW. THERE IS SO MUCH HOPE, SO MUCH POTENTIAL IN EVERYONE. THE PROGRAM LETS THE PARTICIPANTS LEARN MUCH ABOUT VARIOUS SUBJECTS FROM FACILITATORS WHO ARE THE BEST IN THEIR FIELD. WE BRING THE ESSENCE OF PLAY FOR PEACE AND GUIDE THEM TOWARDS LEARNING WITHOUT FEAR AND JUDGEMENT AND TO LOOK WITHIN.

AGYATMITRA AND SWATI BHATT, PLAY FOR PEACE

COMING TO SANGHE URAB PROGRAM HAS BEEN ONE OF MY LIFE'S BEST DECISIONS. THE IDEAS, THE KNOWLEDGE, THE TEAM SPIRIT I GOT HERE WILL BE VERY HELPFUL IN REST OF MY LIFE. THANK YOU INJOT TRUST FOR GIVING ME THIS OPPORTUNITY.

JUSTIN LAKRA, PARTICIPANT







# CULTURAL EVENING AND CLOSING

IMMENSE TALENTS, FRIENDSHIP, MEMORIES AND BONDING





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# LEARNING BEYOND THE SESSIONS



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Injot Women, Founder Ms. Anjali Tirkey and Trustee Ms. Arindita Cogoi, believe in the power of learning through books, art, movies, travels etc. and a library of books on Adivasi issues was set up during the programme for all to read and learn.

The off- session times was also used to learn from peers and from facilitators in an informal atmosphere. Meal times, when the participants and facilitators ate together, also allowed ample interactions and sharing.

**THERE IS A CUT THROAT COMPETITION IN EVERY SPHERE OF LIFE. INDIVIDUALISM IS GROWING STRONGER. THE DIVISION BETWEEN INDIVIDUALS AND COMMUNITIES IN SOCIETY IS WIDENING DAY BY DAY. IN SUCH A SITUATION, THE THEME SANGHE URAB ( LET'S FLY TOGETHER) IS A NEW CONCEPT, PHILOSOPHY AND VISION. IT IS NOT ONLY MEANINGFUL BUT ALSO VERY CHALLENGING. HOWEVER, INJOT TRUST'S INITIATIVE TO INSTIL THE SENSE OF FLYING TOGETHER IN YOUTH IS SIMPLY UNPARALLED.**

**SANGHE URAB IS A GREAT PLATFORM FOR IGNITING YOUNG MINDS FOR PROTECTING AND PRESERVING NATURE AND CULTURE. IF TRADITIONS ARE RESPECTED, SUSTAINABLE FUTURES FOR HUMANKIND IS PRESERVED. THE PARTICIPANT YOUTH BROUGHT IN RAW ENERGY AND SANGHE URAB CHANNELIZED IT IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION.**

**DR. SONALI GHOSH IFS, CHIEF CONSERVATOR OF FOREST, GOVT. OF ASSAM**

**ANUPCHAND MINJ, LAWYER & RTI EXPERT**







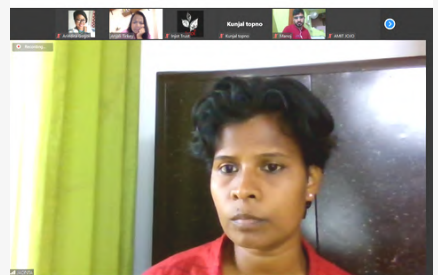
## MOMENTS AND MEMORIES







# MOMENTS AND MEMORIES





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# THE IMPACT

Sanghe Urab 2022 made a deep impact on the participants. We sincerely believe that the participants who learnt from the best of the facilitators in their respective fields will exercise the learnings in their life and create a ripple effect. Thus the outcome of the program is not limited to the Cohort of 40, but will have far reaching impact in the community as these participants influence mobilisation at the grassroots level.

From the experience of the first year of Sanghe Urab in 2021, we have realised that the participants had an enriching experience which they carried back to the community. Every participant mentioned about being more aware and self-assured. Some of the participants started a good career as they found themselves more knowledgeable and confident during their job interviews, 2 of the participants started free coaching class for the student in the tea gardens around their homes, many of the participants helped the community by helping in the registration for e-Shram, a few helped in applying for land documents through Mission Basundhara, 3 of the participants filed RTI related to issues that concerned them like, PDS system in their area, health situation in the tea gardens and few helped the students from the Adivasi and tea garden community to apply for Sirish scholarship under Tea Tribes Welfare Dept, Govt. of Assam. Those who were already working in NGOs or had other jobs became more effective in their performance.







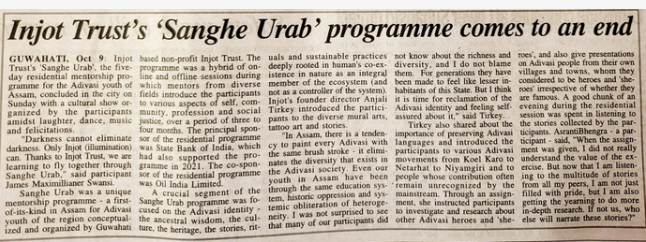
# MEDIA COVERAGE AND BRANDING

THE PROGRAMME SANGHE URAB WAS WELL COVERED BY THE SENTINEL IN THEIR PRINT AS WELL AS DIGITAL NEWS...

## THE SENTINEL - 6TH OCTOBER



## THE SENTINEL - 10TH OCTOBER



SANGHE URAB IS THE BEST PART OF LEARNING REALITY IN MY LIFE WHERE I LEARNED ABOUT THE VALUE OF MY CULTURE, THE PROBLEMS OF OUR COMMUNITY AND SOLUTIONS, HOW TO FACE CHALLENGES IN LIFE ETC. THANKS INJOT TRUST BECAUSE YOU OPENED MY EYES. 95% OF OUR PROPERTY IS LAND. AND YET I WAS NOT AWARE ABOUT THIS MOST VALUABLE ASSET AND NOT READY TO LEARN TILL THE SESSIONS BY ANJALI TIRKEY MA'AM AND ISLAM SIR. I AM GRATEFUL.

SURESH LAKRA, PARTICIPANT



# MEDIA COVERAGE AND BRANDING



Home / NE News / Assam News / 'Sanghe Urab'- Injot's ...

## 'Sanghe Urab'- Injot's Program for Adivasi Youth Kicks Off in Guwahati

Sanghe Urab's residential phase kicked off at Don Bosco Youth Mission and Educational Services (DBI) in Guwahati on October 2.



By Sentinel Digital Desk | 5 Oct 2022 8:28 PM

GUWAHATI: "I don't think Adivasis are only successful because of reservations, and that we are not intellectual. Adivasi wisdom has been passed on from generations. Our traditional architecture is sustainable and exhibits thermal insulation along with aesthetics in the form of wall arts. I see women of our community as master architects and engineers. There is so much intellect in the community, then how can people only say our success is only based on reservations?", said youth participant John Kandulna, at Sanghe Urab 2022.

The mentorship program is supported by State Bank of India as the Principal Sponsor. They supported the same program last year in 2021 where the residential phase was organised in Kaziranga, hoping to open possibilities for the Adivasi youth. Oil India Limited too has been a co-sponsor of Sanghe Urab.

"Sanghe Urab is not about hand-holding our Adivasi youth or to patronise them into choosing what we think is good for them, but to empower them to make informed choices for themselves and the community. We provide a bit of scaffolding for their journey of self-discovery by providing them with tools and exposures to diverse people and fields, that they can use to design a progressive path for themselves. We would love it if some of these youth decide to do something for the community and become active change makers, but we will be satisfied if they become successful and happy individuals, and live a life which inspires others," said Ms. Anjali Turkey - the Founder Director of Injot Trust.



Kandulna was strongly contesting the notion of stereotypes associated with the Adivasi community during Sanghe Urab 2022 - a mentorship program for Adivasi youth of Assam organised by Injot Trust, a Guwahati-based not for profit organisation that works for the empowerment of the Adivasi community of Assam.

Sanghe Urab's residential phase kicked off at Don Bosco Youth Mission and Educational Services (DBI) in Guwahati on October 2. It is one of the first of its kind mentorship program specially designed for Adivasi youth of Assam during which participants experience a wide range of interactive sessions facilitated by experts from diverse fields - from IAS officers to Play for Peace practitioners, entrepreneurs and politicians to social development professionals, activists and journalists to educators, photo-essayists, authors and people from the corporate world.

Sanghe Urab means 'Let's Fly Together' in Sadi language - the lingua franca of Adivasis in Assam. Injot designed this program using its three-fold approach of Heal, Educate, Empower. Some parts of the program are designed for the participants to access the emotions within them and to identify the needs that generate those emotions. At the same time, the participants explore how all these impact their behaviour and in turn become a part of their identity. A considerable part of the program focuses on the Adivasi identity of the participants and introduces them to the rich indigenous heritage, Adivasi movements and ancestral wisdom - at the heart of which is sustainability and co-existence with the natural world.

The residential part is the fourth phase of Sanghe Urab 2022. In the first three phases the participants took part in 12 online sessions which were designed around the themes of emotions, identity and community, Adivasi culture and heritage, and career goals and employability. In the fourth phase they will be introduced to the panorama of social justice, community building, leadership, enterprise and life vision.

Some participants reflected upon how they navigated an activity during a Play for Peace session. "During the activity I made sure that I spoke out what I wanted to in the beginning so that I don't feel like I did not speak my mind. At the same time, I figured that it is okay to follow other ideas that are better," said Junali Baskey - a young participant.

Injot founders Anjali Turkey and Arindita Gogoi believe that this program will go on to build a strong community of Adivasi youth in Assam who can think critically, are more confident in their interactions with others and most importantly those who are reconnected to the Adivasi heritage and culture, and to the depth of Adivasi wisdom. The next four days of the residential phase, according to them, are going to be a thrilling yet grounding ride, for not just the participants but to all facilitators as well.

During the review of one of the assignments given during the online phase of Sanghe Urab on documenting the Adivasi heroes and sheroes whose exemplary contributions should be of national stature and also the unknown heroes who live in our midst, often unacknowledged and yet silently contributing towards the betterment of the society, Asranti Bhengra felt that while doing the assignments, she discovered many Adivasi legends about whom she hardly knew before and she understood the value of documenting the life stories of those whose contribution and roles are unheard of.

Facilitators and speakers that the participants are about to meet in the next few days are Dr. JB Ekka IAS, Principal Secretary, Government of Assam, Anupchand Minj - lawyer and RTI expert, Wilfred Topno - Director of PAD and Founder of Adivasi Mahasabha, Agyat Mitra and Swati Bhatt - Play for Peace practitioners, Mr. Nazrul Islam IAS (Retd.) - expert par excellence on land matters in Assam, Keerthi Jhalli IAS, DC, Kamrup Rural, Dr. Sonali Ghosh IFS, Chief Conservator of Forests, Assam, Dr.Hippoletus Toppo - scholar and expert on Adivasi culture and heritage, Runa Rafique - farmer and livestock entrepreneur, Nabajit Bharali - State Project Manager, Skills and Placement at ASRLM, Government of Assam, and Bikram Kairi IAS - the first IAS officer from Barak valley.

इंजोत का यह कार्यक्रम असम के आदिवासी युवाओं को अपने आप पर विश्वास करने और आत्मसम्मान के साथ आगे बढ़ने के लिए प्रेरित करता है। आदिवासियों के इतिहास, आदिवासी नायकों की कहानियों को आदिवासियों युवाओं के बीच जीवित करने के पीछे इन गतिविधियों का यह सुंदर मकसद है। इसके लिए संस्था के प्रयास सराहनीय हैं।

JACINTA KERKETTA, POET AND JOURNALIST



# MEDIA COVERAGE AND BRANDING

## When You Learn to Fly Together: Sanghe Urab 2022

Injot's Sanghe Urab 2022 - the four month journey of a unique mentorship program for Adivasi youth of Assam concludes in Guwahati.



By Sentinel Digital Desk  
10 Oct 2022 1:23 PM | Updated: 11 Oct 2022 11:55 AM

GUWAHATI: As Santosh Topno, a youth participant in SangheUrab tapped his fingers on the maandar and KunjalTopno - another peer melodiously sang a few lines in Mundari, the energy of the room changed. It was evident that there was more to the community dance that day - something beyond fun. It felt as if the participants and facilitators were dancing together in proclamation of a new found respect for their culture, heritage and ancestral wisdom; every dance step an affirmation of hope and a united Adivasi society.

Sanghe Urab is a unique mentorship program - a first of its kind in Assam for Adivasi youth of the region conceptualised and organised by Guwahati based non-profit Injot Trust. The program is a hybrid of online and offline sessions during which mentors from diverse fields introduce the participants to various aspects of self, community, profession and **social justice**, over a period of three to four months. The principal sponsor of the residential program is State Bank of India which had also supported the program in 2021. The co-sponsor of the residential program is Oil India Limited.

A crucial segment of the Sanghe Urab program is focused on the Adivasi identity - the ancestral wisdom, the culture, the heritage, the stories, rituals and sustainable practices deeply rooted in human's co-existence in nature as an integral member of the ecosystem (and not as a controller of the system). Injot's Founder Director introduced the participants to the diverse mural arts, tattoo art and stories. "In Assam, there is a tendency to paint every Adivasi with the same brush stroke - it eliminates the diversity that exists in the Adivasi society. Even our youth in Assam have been through the same education system, historic oppression and systemic obliteration of heterogeneity. I was not surprised to see that many of our participants did not know about the richness and diversity, and I do not blame them. For generations they have been made to feel like lesser inhabitants of this state. But I think it is time for reclamation of the Adivasi identity and feeling self-assured about it," said Anjali Tirkey, Founder Director of Injot Trust.

Ms. Tirkey also shared about the importance of preserving Adivasi languages and introduced the participants to various Adivasi movements from Koel Karo to Netarhat to Niyamgiri and to people whose contribution often remain unrecognised by the mainstream. Through an assignment, she instructed participants to investigate and research about other Adivasi heroes and sheroes, and also give presentations on Adivasi people from their own villages and towns, whom they considered to be heroes and sheroes irrespective of whether

they are famous. A good chunk of an evening during the residential session was spent in listening to the stories collected by the participants. Asranti Bhengra - a participant said, "When the assignment was given, I did not really understand the value of the exercise. But now that I am listening to these multitude of stories from all my peers, I am not just filled with pride, but also, I am getting the yearning to do more in-depth research. If not us, who else will narrate these stories?"

Jacinta Kerketta - renowned **journalist** and poetess along with Founder Director, during an online session shared her knowledge and experiences from the fields about the Adivasi movements with examples abound. Dr.Hippoletus Topno - scholar and Adivasi cultural expert conducted a meaningful session with the participants on Adivasi culture that prompted them to reflect on cultural practices that are disappearing and are in need of preservation. While youth participant Johny Kandulna expressed his intention to document indigenous medicinal practices, other participants made an intention to reconnect with nature and truly practise the concept of "nature is an Adivasi's temple". Wilfred Topno - Director of People's Action for Development (PAD) reconnected the youth to Adivasi music and dance, and spoke about Adivasi languages and their origin.

Injot Trust also invited senior government officials, who introduced the participants to the government machinery and also took questions to clear their doubts. Dr. JB Ekka IAS, Principal Secretary, Government of Assam spent a great deal of time with the participants and conducted two sessions during the residential program. "Don't wait for the perfect conditions - start with what you have in hand and keep building on it. When you arrive at one goal, it does not mean it is the end - it only means you have to work hard and maintain that excellence, till you arrive at the next pit stop," he advised the participants citing his own journey of humble beginnings, then doing MBBS in AIIMS, New Delhi, his IAS journey followed by his Masters in Public Health from Johns Hopkins University, USA. He also introduced to the participants various universal schemes under the Govt. of Assam and Govt. of India that could help the community and encouraged them to build awareness in their towns, villages, districts so that more people can avail the benefits of these schemes.

Keerthi Jalli IAS, DC of Kamrup (Rural) also spent time with the participants and conducted a highly interactive session 'Leadership and Learning'. Her session focussed on the idea of how to learn and stay open to learning. "Do not feel shy about asking what you want to know. Do not feel hesitant to take charge of your own learning. Seize the moment of learning - the smallest window to observe someone, speak to someone, or do something. Don't let it go away because you did not realise that you could learn something from that moment or that person," she encouraged the participants.

Another important segment of Sanghe Urab was the panorama of social justice. It started with Injot's Founder Director sharing how not being empowered to distinguish between facts and opinions - lack of critical thinking, can lead to stereotypes and prejudices and thus create a divisive society. She also spoke about concepts

of inclusion, equity and equality and their interconnectedness with social justice. Anupchand Minj - lawyer and RTI Expert conducted a session on RTI Act and how it can help in getting accurate information from the government, and how it can be a powerful tool to build accountability. Nazrul Islam IAS (Retd.) conducted a session on Land Literacy and introduced the youth to the basic vocabulary and system of land matters. During the same session the youth participants got a chance to meet

participants of Injot's Jameen - a training and advocacy program on land literacy, who are working actively to implement the learnings from the program to the Adivasi community at the grassroots.

Sanghe Urab also focused on career and employability. Sessions on career design and resume building were conducted by Trustee of Injot Trust Arindita Gogoi and Anjali Tirkey - Founder Director. An online session on Understanding Digital Footprint was conducted by Dubai based digital marketing expert Chandni Varma. Along the lines of employability and entrepreneurship, a powerful session was conducted by Runa Rafique - a farmer and livestock entrepreneur. She encouraged the participants who were interested in enterprise to study the market, understand people's needs and create business plans accordingly. She also offered to provide further mentorship to those who want to get into livestock farming. A highly engaging session was conducted by Dr. Sonali Ghosh IFS, Chief Conservator of Assam, in which she focused on how young people can take up conservation and nature centric careers and they may come more easily to Adivasi youth as the community has strong knowledge of local biodiversity. Rita Banerjee, Founder of the Green Hub Project during her online session had shared how young people can work on conservation and social change through the digital medium. EM Wilson Hasda, in his online session shared about his life and motivated the youth to work smart and hard for their chosen goals. For many of the participants he is a hero as they could identify with his life and struggles. NabajitBharali, State Project Manager, Skills & Placement at Assam State Rural Livelihoods Mission, Govt of Assam conducted an interesting and informative session on skills training offered by the government of Assam and how the youth can benefit from such programs. JohnyKandulna who has been documenting the Adivasi traditional medicines, felt re-energised to continue his work with fervour.

The social emotional learning aspect of the program was facilitated through experiential sessions that are based on Play for Peace values of inclusion, safety, fun and cooperation, principles of Nonviolent Communication (NVC) and the Creative Community model. Cooperative games and expressive arts were extensively used to create a safe space for conversations, discussions and reflection, and most importantly stringing together the learnings from the journey of four months. Play for Peace practitioners Agyatmitra, Swati Bhatt and Ajatshatru, and Injot Trustee Arindita Gogoi facilitated these sessions during the online as well as residential program. Millika Topno- a participant said, "I did not realise when my stretch zone became a comfort zone in the past few days. I am learning so much about myself that it is a wonder."

The five-day residential program concluded with a cultural show organised by the participants amidst laughter, dance, music and felicitations. "Darkness cannot eliminate darkness. Only Injot (illumination) can. Thanks to Injot Trust, we are learning to fly together through Sanghe Urab," concludes participant James Maximillaner Swansi.

Also read: '**Sanghe Urab - Injot's Program for Adivasi Youth Kicks Off in Guwahati**

FOR ME SANGHE URAB IS A PRECIOUS GIFT FROM INJOT TRUST TO ME. I AM DELIGHTED I COULD BE A PART OF SANGHE URAB 2022. ALL THE SESSIONS INSPIRED ME TO DREAM MORE, LEARN MORE, DO MORE AND BECOME MORE POWERFUL AS AN INDIVIDUAL AND AS A LEADER. SANGHE URAB HAS GIVEN US THE OPPORTUNITY FOR DEVELOPMENT OF OURSELVES AS WELL AS FOR OUR SOCIETY. THE LOVE, CARE, GUIDANCE AND SUPPORT PROVIDED TO US IS MOST VALUABLE. OUR FACILITATORS ARE THE BEST TEACHERS.

ANI KONDOPAN,  
PARTICIPANT





# SANGHE URAB 2022

A mentorship program for Adivasi youth of Assam



Principal Sponsor

[www.injottrust.org](http://www.injottrust.org)



Co-sponsor

## MEDIA COVERAGE & BRANDING

THE MERCHANDISE AND VISIBILITY MATERIALS LIKE BACKDROPS AND BANNERS AT STRATEGIC POSITIONS IN THE RESIDENTIAL VENUE AND POSTS IN SOCIAL MEDIA AND WEBSITE GAVE AMPLE VISIBILITY TO THE PROGRAMME AND THE SPONSORS.







Principal Sponsor



Co-sponsor

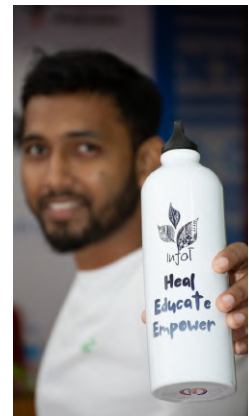
# SANGHE URAB 2022

A mentorship program for Adivasi youth of Assam

[www.injottrust.org](http://www.injottrust.org)



## MEDIA COVERAGE & BRANDING



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# SANGHE URAB TEAM & FACILITATORS

THE PEOPLE BEHIND THIS PROGRAMME ALONG WITH  
INJOT'S CORE TEAM



**ANJALI TIRKEY**

FOUNDER DIRECTOR OF INJOT TRUST,  
PHOTO-ESSAYIST & PHILANTHROPIST



**ARINDITA GOGOI**

TRUSTEE OF INJOT TRUST, EXPERIENTIAL  
EDUCATOR, VICE PRINCIPAL OF AN  
EXPERIENTIAL SCHOOL

Sanghe Urab's USP is the team of facilitators who are experts in their respective fields and come from diverse backgrounds. The facilitators connect with the Injot Team and also the participants and keeping the background, diversity and need of the group designed their respective sessions so that the participants could find true value from the sessions - both online and during the residential program. The facilitators included senior government officials, entrepreneurs, social development professionals, community mobilisers, academics and scholars, Play for Peace practitioners, political and social activists, lawyers, corporate professionals, communications experts amongst others.

## **ANJALI TIRKEY**

The Founder Director of Injot Trust, and a professional photo essayist and feature writer, Anjali has worked for the Tea Plantation Workers and indigenous communities for 20 years and represented their cause in the UN. She has been actively involved with tea plantation workers that includes making documentaries and photo features highlighting Adivasi heritage and human rights issues faced by the community. An avid traveller, and deep sea and wreck diver, she is also the recipient of the Excellence in Journalism Award by UCIP in 2007.

## **JACINTA KERKETTA**

She is a freelance journalist, well-known Hindi poetess and author of several books. Her poetry and writings cover a wide milieu of subjects, particularly those that concern human behaviour, the Adivasi identity and social crises. She is the recipient of several awards including Indigenous Voice of Asia award for her journalistic work by The Asia Indigenous People's Pact (AIPP) in Bangkok, and Women Exemplar Recognition Award from the Foundation of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII). Since 2015 she has been working in girls' education in Adivasi villages in Jharkhand.



# SANGHE URAB TEAM & FACILITATORS

## THE PEOPLE BEHIND THIS PROGRAMME ALONG WITH INJOT'S CORE TEAM

### **DR. J B EKKA IAS**

Currently the Principal Secretary of Panchayat and Rural Development and Tea Tribes Welfare Department, Assam, Dr. Ekka completed his MBBS from AIIMS New Delhi and has a Masters in Public Health from Johns Hopkins University, USA. He has been posted in Assam since 1996.

### **WILSON HASDA**

He is currently the Executive Member (EM) of BTC and was a Founding Trustee of Injot Trust. As a social worker and political activist, Mr. Hasda brings in his experience of working with the Adivasi community as well as the development sector for many years. He received Certificate of Excellence on the occasion of 69th Republic Day, 2018 for excellent contribution towards Social Works and has served in the position of General Secretary, International Human Rights Council (IHRC), North East Zonal Board (NEZB).

### **WILFRED TOPNO**

A community leader, author of several books about Adivasi languages, advocate of Adivasi rights and a former teacher, Wilfred Topno is currently the Director of Peoples Action for Development (PAD) and has been a founding member of and advisor to many Adivasi pressure groups in Assam. He is the publisher of Adivasi Awaz News Magazine and the founder of Adivasi Sahitya Sabha. He also established St. Don Bosco LP School and Adivasiya School.

### **NABAJIT BHARALI**

Currently working as State Project Manager, Skills & Placement at Assam State Rural Livelihoods Mission, Govt of Assam, Mr. Bharali completed MBA (Marketing) from University of Wales, UK and has more than 14 years of experience in various fields like Skill Development, Livelihood, Micro-Finance, FMCG etc. He had cross-sectoral experience in both Govt and Private services spectrum primarily in managerial capacities.

### **NAZRUL ISLAM IAS (RETD.)**

Mr. Islam started his career as a civil servant in Assam in 1984 and was posted in various districts, and held significant positions in various departments throughout his career. His work with Panchayat and Rural Development, Social Welfare Department, and his role as Chief Executive Officer of Zilla Parishad makes him an authority on rural panorama of Assam. He has served as Revenue Official in various capacities and is well versed in land related laws and rules of Assam. He is an ideal person to guide on the various land documentation issues faced by the Adivasi community. He has been the lead facilitator for Injot's land literacy program Jameen since 2021.

### **RITA BANERJI**

Founder of the Green Hub Project that leverages the power of youth in conservation and social change through the digital medium, Rita initiated the Green Hub in the northeast of India in 2015, in collaboration with North East Network and has expanded to Central India in 2021. Rita is an Ashoka fellow and works through her organisation Dusty Foot Foundation.

# SANGHE URAB TEAM & FACILITATORS

## THE PEOPLE BEHIND THIS PROGRAMME ALONG WITH INJOT'S CORE TEAM

### **SWATI BHATT**

Swati is an experiential educator with an expansive work experience of 24 years. She conducts training for youth, children and organizations across India as Co-Founder of Play for Peace initiative in India. She has also made documentaries that focus on cooperative gaming as a tool of intervention in communities. She has conducted workshops with various communities in Nepal, Vietnam and Thailand, Pakistan, Greece, Italy and South Sudan.

### **DR. SONALI GHOSH IFS**

Currently the Chief Conservator of Forests, Assam Dr. Sonali is an Indian Forest Service officer with more than 23 years of work experience in the field of wildlife and natural heritage management in India. She has a dual master's degree in wildlife science and forestry, and a PhD in Geography from UK. A co-editor of 2 books; Cultural Landscapes of Asia and Wild Treasures - reflections on natural heritage in Asia, an Anthology, her current research interests include Ex-situ conservation, Protected Area Governance and exploring nature-culture linkages for heritage conservation.

### **CHANDNI VARMA**

Currently the Director of Digital Media in Dubai based company PHD, she has over a decade of experience in digital media marketing. She is a post graduate from Falmouth University, UK and a graduate from Delhi University. Chandni is passionate about theatre and regularly directs plays, and is now pursuing her interest in filmmaking.

### **AJATSHATRU**

From being a corporate professional and a practicing lawyer, Ajat followed his heart to work with vulnerable communities. Through his collaborations with NGOs he has worked with communities across India, Nepal, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Pakistan and Greece. He has volunteered for organisations like Woodcraft Folks which works with children, and Open Secret that works with adults who were victims of sexual abuse as children, in Scotland. He is a Play for Peace practitioner and mentors people from social development and education sector.

### **ANUPCHAND MINJ**

He worked as a teacher, social worker and lawyer in Assam and Andaman and Nicobar Islands for several years before moving back to his home state Jharkhand. Unjust treatment of anyone, especially against marginalised people always disturbed him. He found the RTI Act 2005 to be a powerful tool for ordinary citizens and became an RTI crusader. He has filed hundreds of RTIs till date and feels the applications make government departments more alert and accountable. He has been associated with Injot's various programs like Jameen and Sanghe Urab.



# SANGHE URAB TEAM & FACILITATORS

## THE PEOPLE BEHIND THIS PROGRAMME ALONG WITH INJOT'S CORE TEAM

### **AGYATMITRA**

From being a television scriptwriter and a site-engineer, Agyat moved to the field of experiential learning and has been practicing Play for Peace methodologies for conflict resolution and peace-building for 21 years. He has worked with vulnerable communities across India and in countries like Pakistan, Myanmar, Nepal, South Sudan, Israel, Thailand, Senegal, Greece and Vietnam, and has collaborated with various non profit organisations for training of adults, and engagement with children.

### **DR. HIPPOLETUS TOPPO**

A renowned scholar and expert on Adivasi culture, Dr. Hippo is the Principal of Don Bosco School and currently posted in Rowta. A Doctorate in Dogmatic Theology from Urbaniana University, Rome, thesis titled, "Towards an Adivasi Liberative Theology", he is currently a visiting professor of Oriens Theological College, Shillong. He has published articles on Adivasis of Assam and has authored books in Sadri on Karam Festival and other folklores.

### **RUNA RAFIQUE**

Co-founder of Blue Planet Amalgamated, Ms. Rafique is a farmer entrepreneur. A passionate advocate of returning to a 'culture of farming', she owns Saraighat Farms and DhowaSang, meat product lines. The Saraighat Farms Training and Research Institute is her newest venture being set up for capacity building of small holder farmers. Prior to venturing into farmpreneurship, she has worked extensively in the development sector and government programmes.

### **KEERTHI JALLI IAS**

She is a 2013 batch, Assam cadre IAS officer who has served as Deputy Commissioner in Aspirational District of Hailakandi and Cachar district before being posted as DC Kamrup (Rural). Her exemplary work as an administrator has earned her many National awards. The young officer has made waves in social media and won the hearts of youth and all for her videos which showed her toiling hard and reaching out to the flood affected people of Cachar. A Computer Science Engineer by education, Ms. Keerthi likes to challenge her mind and body by pursuing adventure activities which often are considered "undoable". Be it challenging her Hyderabad-ness with the biting cold of River Zaskar on Chadar Trek in the winters of Ladakh, or learning to ride a bullet to explore the beauty of Kashmir, or the way she skirts risk with bullets on the borders of Mizoram. She believes in nudging girls out of their comfort zone to chisel the innate leader within.

### **ARINDITA GOGOI**

She is the Trustee of Injot Trust and is an experiential educator, expressive art facilitator and trainer. Currently she is the Vice Principal of a school. She has been working with children and adults across geographies since 2007. She has facilitated at PYE Global's Power of Hope Camp (Whidbey Island, USA). She regularly mentors and trains educators and extensively uses expressive arts in her facilitation practice.



Anjali Tirkey



Wilson Hasda



Dr. JB Ekka IAS



Rita Banerji



Anupchand Minj



Dr. Hippoletus Toppo



Swati Bhatt



Jacinta Kerketta



Wilfred Topno



Chandni Varma



Runa Rafique



Keerthi Jalli IAS



Nazrul Islam IAS (Retd.)



Dr. Sonali Ghosh IFS



Agyatmitra



Nabajit Bharali



Ajatshatru



Arindita Gogoi

SANGHE URAB 2022 IS ONE OF THE MOST MEMORABLE EXPERIENCES I EVER HAD IN MY LIFE. I REALLY APPRECIATE THE TIME AND EFFORT INJOT TEAM HAS PUT INTO MAKING IT A SUCCESS. I WAS FORTUNATE ENOUGH TO MEET IDEAL RESOURCE PERSONS LIKE IAS OFFICERS, RESEARCHERS, JOURNALISTS, ENTREPRENEURS, AUTHORS, SOCIAL ACTIVISTS AND OTHERS. IN THE 4 MONTHS OF JOURNEY, SANGHE URAB GAVE ME OPPORTUNITIES TO ASK QUESTIONS AND TALK ABOUT REAL LIFE EXAMPLES WHICH WAS REALLY INFORMATIVE AND AT THE SAME TIME ENJOYABLE. THE COURSE WAS BEYOND MY EXPECTATIONS, BOTH PERSONALLY AND PROFESSIONALLY. THE KEY LEARNINGS WERE:- WE SHOULD NOT FORGET OUR ROOT AND ALWAYS REMEMBER FROM WHERE WE HAVE COME. IF WE NOT GIVE RESPECT TO OUR ADIVASI LEGENDS, DO NOT WRITE, DO NOT RESEARCH ABOUT THEM THEN WHO ? WE SHOULD FEEL PROUD OF OUR OWN IDENTITY, CULTURE AND LANGUAGE.

ASRANTI BHENGRA, PARTICIPANT



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# GRATITUDE

SANGHE URAB HAS BEEN SUCCESSFUL BECAUSE OF MANY WHO HAVE BELIEVED IN THE NEED AND IMPACT OF THIS PROGRAMME AND SUPPORTED WITH THEIR MONEY, TIME, IDEAS, SKILLS, KNOWLEDGE AND ENCOURAGEMENTS. WE EXPRESS OUR GRATITUDE TO THEM FOR MAKING THIS A MEANINGFUL AND QUALITATIVE EXPERIENCE FOR ALL.

**Principal Sponsor**  
State Bank of India

**Co-sponsor**  
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**Our Well Wishers & Support Team**  
Dr. J B Ekka IAS  
Bhupinder Singh  
Rahul Rajkhewa  
Wilson Hasda  
Wilfred Topno  
Anupchand Minj  
Rayana Pandey  
Staff at Don Bosco Youth Mission & Education Services

**Our Volunteers**  
Devasmita Goswami  
Jona Hembrom  
Satish Oraon  
Udit Mali  
Beronica Bara  
Amrita Tirkey  
Binai Toppo  
Anjali Kujur

**Our Facilitators**  
Agyatmitra  
Ajatshatru  
Anjali Tirkey  
Anupchand Minj  
Arindita Gogoi  
Chandni Varma  
Dr. Hippoletus Toppo  
Dr. J B Ekka, IAS  
Dr. Sonali Ghosh, IFS  
Jacinta Kerketta  
Keerthi Jalli, IAS  
Nabajit Bharali  
Nazrul Islam, IAS (Retd.)  
Rita Banerji  
Runa Rafique  
Swati Bhatt  
Wilfred Topno  
Wilson Hasda



SANGHE URAB 2022 WAS A MEMORABLE JOURNEY FOR ME. FROM THE ONLINE SESSIONS TO THE 5 DAYS RESIDENTIAL PROGRAM, EACH SESSION TAUGHT ME NEW THINGS. I FEEL VERY LUCKY THAT THROUGH SANGHE URAB I GOT THE OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN DIRECTLY FROM MANY EXPERTS SUCH AS MR. ANUPCHAND MINJ, DR. J.B. EKKA IAS, MS. KEERTHI JALLI IAS, DR. SONALI GHOSH IFS AND MANY MORE.

UDIT MALI, PARTICIPANT



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# HOW CAN YOU SUPPORT INJOT?

## **DONATE/SPONSOR:**

Money for our work  
New/Refurbished digital devices like laptop,  
tablet, PC and smart phones  
Story books in Assamese, Hindi and English  
Events organised by Injot

## **VOLUNTEER AS:**

Learning facilitator  
Social media support  
Content developer

## **SPREAD THE WORD:**

Follow us on social media  
Share our posts  
Talk to friends and family

## **Bank Details for Donations:**

Account Name: Injot Trust  
Account No: 50200053630346  
Bank: HDFC Bank Ltd, Kalapahar branch (Guwahati)  
IFSC Code: HDFC0002721

