

Mission Samriddhi

SOCIAL IMPACT ENTERPRISE

Issue 1 Jan 2018

THE QUIET GOOD NEWS

A quarterly from Mission Samriddhi

CELEBRATE • CONNECT • CATALYSE

Mission Samriddhi is a social impact enterprise dedicated to holistic human development in India, through the design and development of projects that are sustainable and capable of scale to positively impact the larger population.



CELEBRATING GOOD. SPREADING JOY.

We would like to start off by thanking each and every one who has supported our vision through 2017.

Ullas Bal Kendra programme in Khekada, a village in UP on Delhi- Saharanpur Highway

Mainstream media would have you believe there's no good happening in this world. Yet as we've been discovering over the past year, the kind of positive work being done at the grassroots level is nothing short of incredible.

Inspiring men and women have been dedicating the most productive years of their lives to positive change. So many social impact organisations of all kinds and sizes are bettering the lives of thousands of people in the remotest of regions. Stories of bravery and persistence in the face of great odds abound. Yet they get buried under the noise of breaking news.

With a view to celebrating these stories, we are launching **The Quiet Good News (TQGN)**, a publication from Mission Samriddhi to cover these real life successes. For those who're new, Mission Samriddhi is a social impact enterprise working for holistic human development in India. Our goal is to make more people happy, healthy and prosperous, starting with rural India.

As Arun Jain, the catalyst behind Mission Samriddhi keeps pondering "What can we do to help them grow 10X." Our efforts are aimed at promoting and celebrating this growth.

This first issue is a special one covering the various events that have been accelerating our pace over the past year and also highlighting a few of our programmes. It will give you a glimpse into how we celebrate, connect and catalyse change.

We of course would love your suggestions and feedback. Also if you would like to share any articles on social impact do mail us at info@missionsamriddhi.org.

We wish you a great year ahead, coming together to make a difference.

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MISSION SAMRIDDHI EVENTS SNAPSHOT 2017

May- Summit 5

August - Agri Workshop

September - 20 years of Ullas

October - Samriddhi Ghar Training, PoleStar Awards & First Connect

November - Summit 6

December - Samriddhi Yatra 1

LOOKING BACK AT 2017

Summit 5@Chennai

This is where discussions on Mission Samriddhi came to a head and started crystallising into a clear development landscape map captured through the Catalyst Wheel (Refer next page). Held on 5th and 6th May, 2017 it saw involved participation from organisations and individuals engaged in various aspects of social development.



Agri Workshop

Held on 16th and 17th of August, 2017, this was the first in a series of workshops planned in each of our areas of focus. The objective was to celebrate and learn from the work of participating organisations and to understand what can make agriculture a productive and sustainable livelihood option.

[More on pg 10](#)

20 years of Ullas

Ullas has been shaping the minds and empowering students of classes 9 to 12, preparing them to move into the next phase of their lives. A heartwarming event to celebrate 20 years of Ullas was held on 25th September 2017 at the annual 'CAN DO' workshop.

[More on pg 10](#)

Samriddhi Ghar training

24th & 25th of October, 2017, saw a team of 55 people from Yatvatmal / Aurangabad, Wardha visiting the National Institute of Rural Development (NIRD), Hyderabad, to learn about appropriate building technologies for low cost housing they can replicate back home.

[More on pg 8](#)

PoleStar Awards for Social Impact, 2017

An event to celebrate social impact organisations who have made a difference

at the grassroots, in the fields of Education, Health, Empowerment and Livelihood was held on 27th October, 2017 with Wipro CEO, Azim Premji as the Chief Guest.

[More on pg 11](#)

First Connect 2017

All the winners of the PoleStar Social Impact Awards 2017, along with the shortlisted organisations met up to share experiences and learn from each other. The Mission Samriddhi community continues to grow through such associations.

[More on pg 12](#)

Summit6@Wardha

Mission Samriddhi has been having periodic meets to discuss, understand and work out a design for change. The sixth such meet was held at Wardha, Maharashtra from 22nd to 24th of November 2017.

[More on pg 13](#)

Samriddhi Yatra

An educational tour of Hivre Bajar and Ralegan Siddhi, two model villages that have proved that positive transformation is possible through community participation was conducted on the 15th & 16th December 2017. The touring group was an interesting mix of village heads and panchayat members

from Wardha district, Fellows and other members of Mission Samriddhi.

[More on pg 16](#)

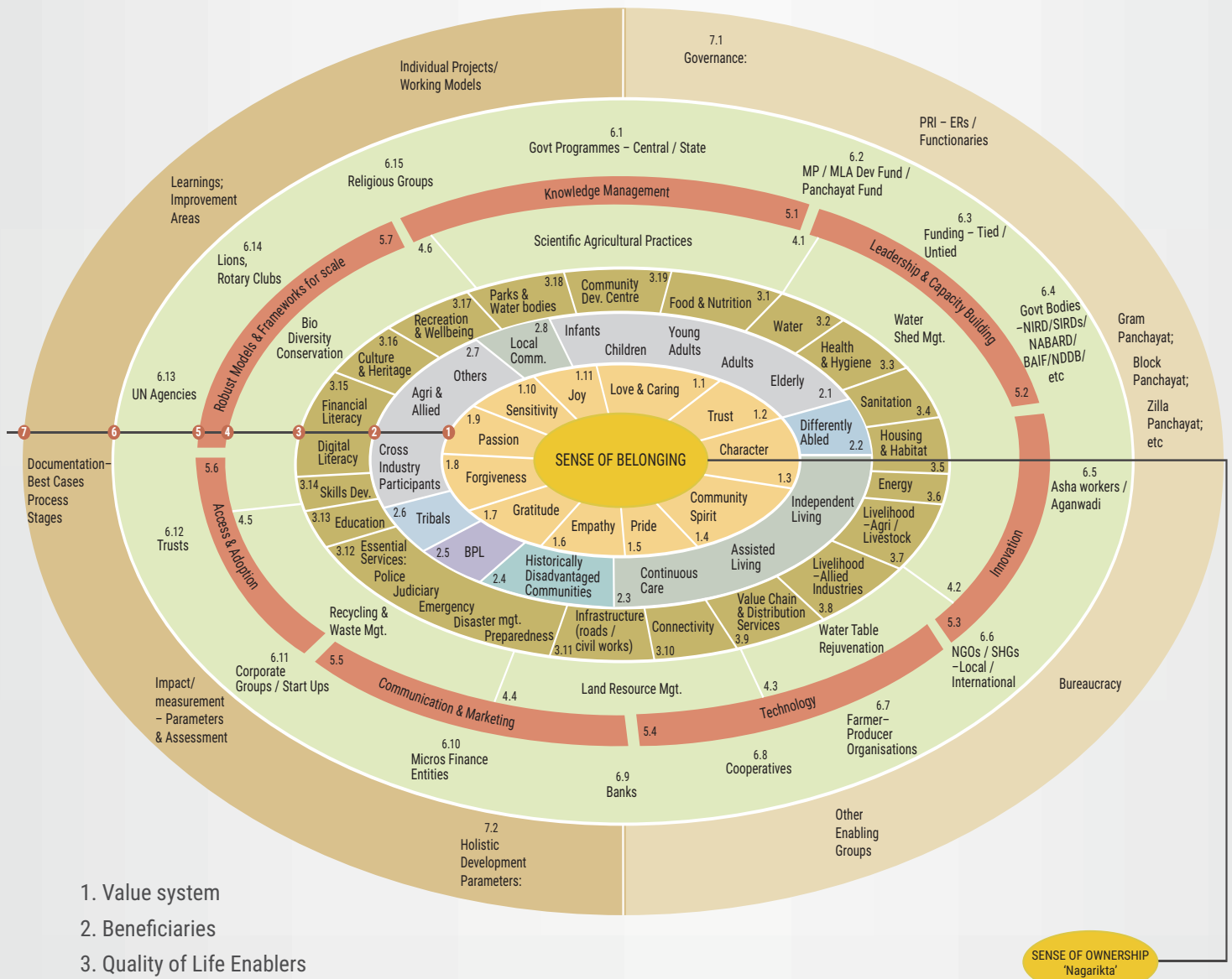
Fellowships

Two fellowship programmes were instituted during the year. The Wardha Action Fellows and the Gandhi Darshan Action Fellows, the latter in association with the Gandhi Smriti Darshan Samiti, New Delhi.

The openness in sharing individual journeys, learnings and the willingness to work together marks the uniqueness of Mission Samriddhi's journey. Free flowing discussions, willingness to consider and work on fresh ideas and unstinted support for the team on the ground all make for an exciting future for this initiative.

THE CATALYST WHEEL

A single page schema that helps Mission Samriddhi keep sight of the big picture, while encouraging knowledge shelving, wiring and drill-downs of each element. This comprehensive visual enables design of various initiatives from concept through activity, keeping outcomes in view.



To know the programme and projects we have undertaken in some of the areas captured above, see page 6

OUR CURRENT PROJECTS



Empowering women among Panchayat leaders who can be future champions at Betul, Maharashtra



Building strong Gramsabhas that will establish rights over natural resources for sustainable livelihood in Yavatmal district of Maharashtra.

Panchayat Training for Elected Representatives in Uttar Pradesh.



Supporting Mission Bee Conservation Pvt Ltd. which has designed the Ahimsa Forest Honey Collection (AFHC) technique.



Helping Magan Sanghralaya Samiti (MSS) a rural enterprise that generates community based livelihood for more than 400 self-help groups including adding value to Khadi, farm to fabric.



Evolving a Swadeshi model of 'Holistic Rural Development' based on inherent knowledge of the rural population, that is sustainable through Jeevaniya Jaivik.

Supporting AGRINDUS, a programme to create a new generation of scientific farmers capable of achieving high agricultural productivity in a sustained way, along with industrial activities that help add value to their produce.



Recognizing academic excellence in students from the economically challenged sections and encouraging the 'Can do' spirit towards chasing their dreams and aspirations through Ullas.



Supporting Tarkeybein's English Proficiency Program



Accelerating the production of innovative hybrid cycle rickshaws to offer relief to rickshaw pullers and also provide them with a source of income through the Sukoon programme.

Providing quality eye care service to those who cannot afford it through the ADK Jain Eye Care programme



Facilitating the creation of low cost housing through the Samirdhi Ghar programme in association with NIRD.



WHEN GANDHI REACHED OUT TO US

How we started working with change-makers in Wardha



Bapu Kuti, Gandhiji's home in Sewagram, Wardha, inspires many visitors

Deepening the Wardha connect

Many of the programmes supported by Mission Samriddhi are based in Wardha, an important part of the Gandhian era. Mahatma Gandhi came here in 1934 and stayed for 7 active years at Shegaon which he renamed as Sewagram, or 'village of service'. His stay here left an impact that can be felt to this day.

Design of the universe

We have been asked why this particular region was chosen to begin our work in social change. All we can say is that we believe that Gandhiji had reached out to Mission Samriddhi through a fascinating flow of events designed by the universe. No other reason could explain why of all the places in our huge country we were led to

Wardha, the very heart of India. A core team that believed in the Gandhian way headed off to Wardha for the first time in the summer of 2016.

Program to herald a happy future

Wardha is primarily agriculture-oriented, popular for cotton farming, pigeon pea and soybean cultivation. Unfortunately this district has become infamous for thousands of debt-ridden farmers committing suicide. In some villages almost every household has lost a family member to suicide. When Dr. Karunakaran, a Gandhian settled in Dattapur proposed a scheme to train the youth of such farmers through a programme called Agrindus, Mission Samriddhi's connect with Wardha was firmed up.

From there on, one connect led to another. Mission Samriddhi is now working with different change-makers at the grassroots in Wardha by supporting programmes that are making a difference in the areas of livelihood and empowerment.

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Mission Samriddhi believes that there's enormous potential for development just by connecting the dots in the current system. Let's take the example of project Samriddhi Ghar to demonstrate how we have gone about doing this for the betterment of the people.

The connects

The Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana - Gramin is a social welfare flagship programme, created by the Indian Government, to provide housing for the rural poor in India. Samriddhi Ghar connects this programme with appropriate housing technologies from the National Institute of Rural Development (NIRD). The connect was logical and is paving the way for lower cost, better quality and more eco-friendly housing for the rural poor.

Discussions initiated

So how did Mission Samriddhi go about this? The first step was to bring the different organisations together. A discussion was initiated between the Yavatmal Zilla Parishad administration, the Yavatmal District Rural Development

THE CONNECT HAS THE POTENTIAL TO PRODUCTISE AND BUILD A HIGH QUALITY HOME IN 70 DAYS AT THE COST OF RS.700 PER MONTH FOR 7 YEARS!

Agencies (DRDA) and the NIRD RTP team. The concept was refined and crystallised.

Workshops conducted

To let the Yavatmal DRDA know the

possibilities of the project, an initial workshop was conducted to demonstrate the technology at NIRD. Subsequently a workshop for 55 people including the beneficiaries, masons, DRDA officials and PRI members was conducted with a commitment from NIRD Director General, Dr.Reddy to support the project.

Quick progress

Since then 80 beneficiaries have been identified in 3 villages and a project plan to implement the housing has been developed. Currently, funding for the machines has been approved and cleared by the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of Maharashtra. Machinery will soon be procured and work on the low cost housing will begin on 1st February, 2018.



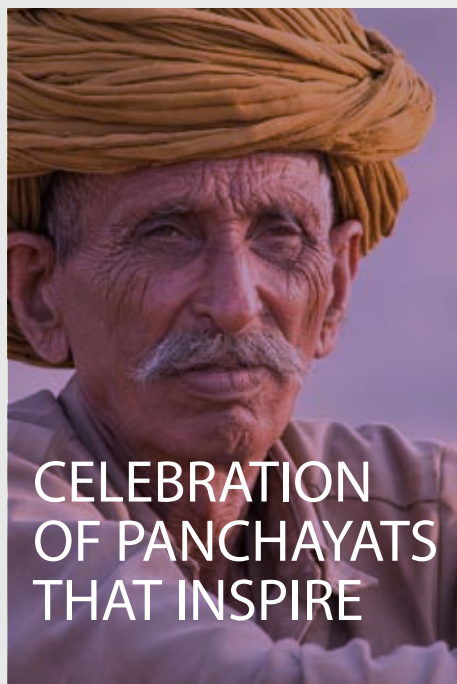
Group of beneficiaries, masons and PRI members departing from Yavatmal for NIRD, Hyderabad



The group attending the workshop at NIRD, Hyderabad



Trying their hand at brick making



Brief overview of Panchayati Raj

Mahatma Gandhi advocated Panchayati Raj as the foundation of India's political system, as a decentralized form of government in which each village would be responsible for its own affairs. The term for such a vision was Gram Swaraj ("village self-governance"). In India today the Panchayati Raj now functions as a system of governance in which gram panchayats are the basic units of local administration. The system has three levels: Gram Panchayat (village level), Mandal Parishad or Block Samiti or Panchayat Samiti (block level), and Zila Parishad (district level). It was formalized in 1992 by the 73rd amendment to the

Indian Constitution. The Panchayats receive funds from three sources:

- Local body grants, as recommended by the Central Finance Commission
- Funds for implementation of centrally sponsored schemes
- Funds released by the state governments on the recommendations of the State Finance Commissions

The Panchayati Raj is provided with numerous supporting pillars in the form of Gram Sabhas that evaluate and scrutinise the different schemes implemented by the administration, and additionally make recommendations to resolve issues faced by people in everyday life.

Giving credit where it's due

Our democratic system entrusts the power directly into the hands of the people, empowering them with the ability to transform their own lives. Our journey at Mission Samriddhi led us to villages that were doing wonderful work that needed to be recognised.

Our objective is to celebrate, connect and catalyse Panchayats that inspire, in the following areas:

a. Natural Resource Management -

Recharging bores / water conservation ; Protecting common forests / open grazing lands ; Plantations.

b. Holistic approach to MNREGA -

where the programme has been used in a planned manner for village development instead of as an ad hoc income generation opportunity.

("Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act", MGNREGA, is an Indian labour law and social security measure that aims to guarantee the 'right to work'. It aims to enhance livelihood security

in rural areas by providing at least 100 days of wage employment in a financial year to every household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work.)

- Livelihood** - across agriculture, horticulture, dairy, poultry, value-added activities; etc.
- Community Empowerment** - where villages have come together and demonstrated the will to take ownership / responsibility to

overcome challenges, change attitudes / behaviour / embraced development in some manner.

Mission Samriddhi has initiated the recognition process across Yavatmal and Nagpur to celebrate winning practices by articulating and sharing the achievements of the Panchayats. Very often these are ideas put into practice in the real world against great odds. The aim is to catalyse change through interventions that enable cross pollination of these successful ideas.



Some artefacts Mission Samriddhi will be using to celebrate the villages that inspire.

If you would like to recognise Panchayats that do commendable work do write in to info@missionsamriddhi.org and we will go ahead and celebrate and connect them.

AGRI SUMMIT FOR HOLISTIC COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

16th and 17th August 2017

AGRINDUS is a unique experiment that combines education in agriculture with entrepreneurship to help students become self-sustainable. We at Mission Samriddhi believe this is the starting point for socially empowered communities.

Through a process of appreciative enquiry, the workshop on the first day explored the best practices of participating organisations, their moments of pride as well as their challenges and constraints. Some of the organisations that took part were: **National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR)**, **Ramanata Crisna Pai Raikar School Of Agriculture from Goa**, **Eklavya Foundation from Telengana**, **Banwasi Sewa Ashram, UP** and **Kanheri Mutt, Kolhapur**. On the second day, the participants collaborated to design the roadmap for the Indian Institute for Agriculture and Entrepreneurship that culminated in the creation of a comprehensive Agri Periodic Table.

Objective

By **Celebrating** the initiatives of participating organisations in the area of Agriculture and Livelihood education, **Connecting** the patterns in terms of pedagogy, practices, curriculum content across 4 dimensions – Agriculture, Education, Personal Development and Entrepreneurship and finally by **Catalysing** the model to remove constraints, we hope to evolve AGRINDUS into a sustainable and scalable institution.

20 YEARS ON, ULLAS IS GOING STRONG!

In September 2017, we had the most joyous of celebrations in Chennai with nearly 3000 Young Achievers and 100+ Ullas Alumni from 2002 to celebrate "20 Years of Ullas" at the University of Madras, Centenary Auditorium - the very venue where late Dr. APJ Kalam released the Ullas Diary of Dreams booklet!

Smt. Valarmathi, Deputy Director, ISRO, Shri. Ganesh Kumar, ED, RBI, and Dr. Ruchi Gupta (MD, MPH), Associate Professor of Pediatrics and



Medicine, Northwestern University graced the workshop and touched hearts and ignited minds with their passionate narration of their life

journey - role models in every sense!

It was a dream come true at several levels for our Alumni, our mentors, and many of our patrons who joined us! The reflection circle lead by Mr. Arun Jain, CMD, Intellect and Founder, Trustee Ullas Trust with everyone present and the Alumni was a very emotional and reaffirming one! The ripples from that circle continue to grow and touch many more lives...

- Team Ullas



PoleStar Social Impact Awards 2017

Working for social development and community upliftment is often about fighting lone battles and overcoming tough odds in the shadows. For the social worker, seeing positive change is usually the only reward. Yet there's no greater motivation to carry the good work forward than to be recognised for the progress made, overcoming hardships and challenges.

The PoleStar Awards have been celebrating excellence in journalism for the past 19 years. From 2017, social impact initiatives making a significant difference in the lives of people across our country are also being recognised and rewarded. Social welfare organisations making an impact at the grassroots level in the fields of **Education, Health, Empowerment and Livelihood** were chosen after a rigorous screening, evaluation and verification process. These organisations are evaluated on Sustainability, Innovation, Replication, Scalability, and Economic Viability. The four winners were finally chosen by an independent jury.

The event to celebrate the same was held on 27th October 2017 in Chennai with Mr. Azim Premji, Chairman of Wipro and a well-known philanthropist, as Chief Guest.

The submissions and evaluation

- 75 submissions pan- India in the 4 categories.
- 24 shortlisted (6 per category) followed by on-site field validation.
- Onsite evaluation of all 24 organisations
- 20 (5 per category) presented to the Jury for best nomination.

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The winners

Empowerment: Sristi Foundation, Villupuram

Livelihood: Tarun Chetna, Lucknow, UP

Education: Snehalaya, Ahmednagar, Maharashtra

Health Care: Mohan Foundation, Chennai

The Best Good News Feature was also celebrated and the winner of the PoleStar Award in this category was Durba Ghosh.

[More on pg 12](#)

The shortlisted organisations for PoleStar Awards along with the winners were invited to meet up at First Connect 2017 where they exchanged learnings and shared thoughts. They were also invited to Summit 6 @ Wardha to share, learn and explore how the dots can be connected and come up with actionable interventions for Wardha.

[More on pg 13](#)





The shortlisted organisations for PoleStar Awards along with the winners meet up at First Connect 2017.



The winners and shortlisted organisations for PoleStar enjoying the Design Center experience.



The various organisations putting down their learnings from First Connect 2017

Shortlisted organisations for the PoleStar Awards

HEALTH

Jeevan Stem Cell Foundation, Chennai, Tamil Nadu
Deepam Educational Society for Health, Chennai, Tamil Nadu
St Gregorios Dayabhavan, Tumkur, Karnataka
Pride India, Mumbai, Maharashtra

EMPOWERMENT

Step Up Foundation, Pune, Maharashtra
Rahat, Kishanganj, Bihar
Jyothi Jeevapurna, Kottayam, Kerala
Gram Swarajya, Hissar, Haryana

LIVELIHOOD

Sahjeevan, Kutch, Gujarat
Aspire Systems, Chennai, Tamil Nadu
Sevalaya, Tiruvalluvar, Tamil Nadu
Vikasana, Chikmagalur, Karnataka

EDUCATION

Karadi Path, Chennai, Tamil Nadu
Christ Faith Home, Chennai, Tamil Nadu
Akshar Trust, Baroda, Gujarat
Youth Club Bejjipuram, Srikakulam, Andhra Pradesh



It was in the summer of 2016 that we first connected with Wardha, a district at the heart of India in Maharashtra. Looking back it's wonderful how a chance meeting guided a core team to visit this district, soaked in Gandhian thinking. One thing led to another and soon we were supporting many programmes driven by Gandhi's belief in village self-governance, self-sufficiency and non-violence in Wardha.

The emotional spirit of the Summit

The event was hosted by the Mahatma Gandhi International Hindi University (MGIHU) from 22-24 Nov 2017. It was a spontaneous celebration of knowledge and experience. The interactions were free flowing though placed within a broad event structure. The openness of the event allowed everyone to express their thoughts without inhibition. The whole experience through the 3 days was emotionally charged and the personal stories of grit and perseverance bridged gaps between people from diverse backgrounds. These connects led to further discussions on action plans that could be catalysed for change. The focus was on four areas of development - Livelihood, Education, Healthcare and Empowerment

Enthusiastic participation

Our connect with Wardha has strengthened to a firm emotional bond. And it was with

great delight that we held a Summit here bringing together over 600 participants from nearly 40 NGOs, District, Zila Parishad and Panchayat representatives, social enterprises, corporates and educational institutions from within Wardha and across the country. We were privileged to see senior bureaucrats from the IAS too participating with great enthusiasm. We also had the opportunity to celebrate the inspiring work of 21 Gandhians from around India.

The Summit begins

The Summit was held over 3 days. The first day was reserved for a diverse group of keynote speakers who shed light on interesting aspects of social development and change. The Summit started off by the ceremonial lighting of the lamp by the Pro Chancellor of the MGIHU Prof Anand Vardhan Sharma, along with other dignitaries that included Mr Arun Jain, CMD of Intellect Design Arena, Dr W R Reddy, DG, NIRD Hyderabad, Swamiji of the Kanheri Mutt.

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Keynote Speakers

The opening day witnessed several interesting key note sessions including that of the Honourable District Magistrate **Mr Shailesh Naval**. He stressed on the need to focus on sustainable livelihood initiatives welcoming support from institutions like Mission Samriddhi to provide an impetus to rural development in the form of sustainable models such as the REZ with adequate market linkages.



Mr Arun Jain, the visionary behind Mission Samriddhi reaffirmed the core beliefs of the organisation in striving to Celebrate, Connect and Catalyze social impact initiatives to bring holistic development in Wardha and beyond. His explanation of the BELIEF framework set the audience thinking in how to scale any initiative 10 X times.

Mr Apporv Bajaj, Chairperson of the Kamalnayan Jamnalal Bajaj Foundation (KJBF) presented the stellar work being done on the ground in the areas of watershed management, agriculture and livelihood.



Mr. Popatrao Pawar, the well-known Sarpanch of Hiware Bajar shared his inspirational story of the hands-on transformation of his village.

Kanheri Mutt Swamiji spoke about how a spiritual organisation was effectively improving the lives of farmers through sustainable models of livelihood based on organic farming techniques.



Dr Shanthilal Muttha, Chairperson of the Bharatiya Jain Sanghatna (BJS) spoke about the flagship Mulyavardhan program which imparts value education in thousands of government schools in Maharashtra. The secret beyond its huge adoption was the fact that it was not a burden to the schooling system but actually improved the lives of teachers through its innovative content.



Dr Sabahat Azim, CMD of Glocal Healthcare spoke about the state of primary healthcare in remote parts of rural India and how the Digital Dispensary was set up to solve those challenges cost effectively through technology.



Finally **Dr W R Reddy** summed up the day with a call to identify and nurture at least 20 Panchayat leaders in every state while building a mentoring network of at least two mentors for every village.

Gandhians felicitated

As fitting finale to an exciting day, Mission Samriddhi and Gandhi Smriti Darshan Samiti (GSDS), New Delhi, honoured and felicitated 15 Gandhians from across the country. It was motivating and inspiring to see youthful and senior social workers who are following through in the path of Gandhiji to bring in Gram Swarajya in remote parts of rural India.



Day 2 of the Summit was spent in understanding the Education and Healthcare landscape in Wardha and exploring possibilities of positive change here. The same was done in the Livelihood and Empowerment areas on Day 3.



Dr. Ullas Jajoo describing the implementation of successful healthcare initiatives in Wardha



Dr. Ravindra Kohle spoke about his arduous fight against malnutrition



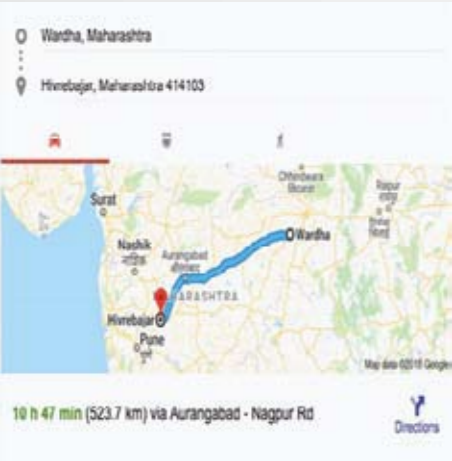
Village sarpanch Roshana speaking on her participation in the Panchayat

MODEL VILLAGES THAT SURVIVED THE ODDS.

Samriddhi Yatra to Hivrebajar and Ralegan Siddhi

What Popatrao Pawar has achieved in his village Hivrebajar, makes for some awesome listening. Inspired by his passion and the change he'd brought about at the Summit @ Wardha, the Sarpanches of the villages in Wardha District were keen to visit and learn from Hivrebajar. It was only natural that the itinerary also included a visit to Anna Hazare's Ralegan Siddhi from where Pawar has drawn his inspiration.

So Mission Samriddhi organised its first Yatra. A group of 50 people including about 40 people from 12 villages and our very own Wardha Action Fellows left from Wardha in a bus along with Professor Ashit Sinha and Leo James of Mission Samriddhi. Songs, jokes and a lot of camaraderie made the bus journey more fun. The participants also got to know each other before arriving in Hivre Bajar.



Here's the Yatra captured in pictures.



1 The bus starts from Wardha, Maharashtra



2 Fulfilled journey to the villages



3 Participants filling out the Yatra Diary



4 Habib Syed, member Water Budget Committee, from the Panchayat Office giving an intro



5 An exhibition of pictures on conditions before and after the transformation of the village



6 Mohan, member Village Council, speaking about how only passion can make a difference. Not money. Not power.



7 Visit to the dairy farm made possible due to the prosperity brought in by watershed management



8 Circle time with the ladies in the yatra led by Manju Jain



9 Preparing for the Visualisation and Magic of Appreciation sessions



10 Visualisation exercises in progress guided by Manju Jain



11 Brainstorming in progress



12 Fellows ideating



13 Presentation of "My ideal village"



14 "I feel nice" cards shared as part of the Magic of Appreciation



15 An ideal village presented



16 Shri Sant Nilobaray Vidyalaya School, Ralegan Siddhi - School for 'failures'



17 An alumni of the school speaking for its efficacy in reforming students



18 Class rooms with CC TVs and smart boards



19 Solar panels installed in the school



20 Exhibition of Anna Hazare's successful programmes in Ralegan Siddhi

MY QUEST AND DISCOVERIES.

- Prof. Mohan Tambe on learning from the Samriddhi Yatra to Hivrebajar and Ralegan Siddhi



My quest from the beginning was to find out what made these two "ideal villages" tick, and could their success get replicated elsewhere.

It was clear from the onset that these two villages became "ideal" because of the extraordinary leadership of Anna Hazare and Popatrao Pawar. As Annaji's model inspired Popatrao, the full credit goes to Annaji for his pioneering efforts, extraordinary vision, determination and sustainability (even today). Without visiting Ralegan, it would have been difficult to understand what made the model successful.

It was also clear that whatever evolved, did so based on the local and external support received and what succeeded in the field. At a different time, place and people - the things would have worked out quite differently. So per se, the models cannot be blindly replicated. The models are just supposed to inspire, with heavy adaptation required for the local environment. The common denominator is perhaps just the inspired attitude.

The leadership, like that of the Mahatma, is

that of a longterm holistic nature. People know that it is not going to fade away with one election. Annaji, has been the permanent guiding spirit, without having any official position in the Panchayat. The leader is a tough person and sometimes has to function like an autocrat, who insists on discipline.

The quality concrete buildings in both Ralegan and Hiware Bajar make them appear as a suburban area of a bigger city. Economists say that fastest rural upliftment comes from the spin - off effect from the nearby big cities. Indeed, Ralegan is just 70 km from Pune, and Hiware Bajar is 17 km from Ahmednagar. Between them is a major district town, Parner, which has all the urban facilities.

Some developmental economists have also noted that all that is needed for society to can take care of its own development are good roads, electricity and water. Indeed the Pune - Ahmednagar Road is throughout populated with urban amenities, including medical specialty clinics. This highway is

These villages are "ideal" because they succeeded in doing so against all odds.

just few kilometres from each of these "villages" contributing immeasurably to their accessibility and development. Erratic electricity, has of course been a problem - both these villages though have overcome it through solar and windmill based generation. The toughest problem, though, has been water. Raising the water level has been no easy feat.

The most important change though would be that of attitudes, such as what Manju Jain had been teaching the Panchayat people: cleanliness, goal - directedness, complementing and appreciating each other. With this we can bring about Gandhian self-sufficient villages, with global outreach. This also echoes Mission Samriddhi's line: **Let's create a better world.**

Mission Samriddhi

SOCIAL IMPACT ENTERPRISE