Yatra Saar
11 YEARS OF BUILDING INDIA THROUGH ENTERPRISE

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Dear Jagriti Family,

Jagriti Yatra symbolises metamorphosis on multiple levels, inward, and otherwise. From the vastly changing sceneries outside as we encircle the perimeter of our nation, to the oscillating temperatures around us, every moment challenges us to transcend beyond our comfort zones, and into a phase of learning-unlearning. The vision of Building India through Enterprise begins on level ground; we belong to diverse backgrounds but onboard the Jagriti Express, we are one united family. A family like no other.

As I frame this chronicle of our 11th journey, enjoying the pre-deadline chaos of collating information, selecting photos, and stopping to enjoy some of the many memories of this mammoth journey, I would like to thank each and every one of you for being part of it, and for joining one of the fastest growing, most distinctive networks in the world. I say this because our network is diverse, far-reaching, as well as carefully curated; each person has something unique to contribute, and brings with them, an equally unique personal story.

Each one of you is unique, each one of you has the potential to build the India you wish to thrive in. As a conscientious citizen who is driven by the desire to develop sustainable enterprises which nurture Middle India, you are now empowered with a large base consisting of mentors, resources, strategies, and a family of 5000+ people who share your vision, perhaps even some of your goals.

A number of challenges which you shared during chair car and compartment sessions now have solution-based strategies. For those who felt they were fighting a lonely battle, you will never be alone again. For those who felt that nobody would support you, think again! For those who feel like they need time to process their emotions and experiences over the past fortnight, take all the time you need in order to evaluate your existing plan of action.

All of us at Jagriti would like to take a moment to thank sponsors, partners, hosts, resource persons, volunteers, and the unsung heroes who worked behind the scenes to ensure that the World’s Longest Entrepreneurial Train Journey remained on-track throughout. This Saar is a labor of love, filled with Yatri accounts of their learning and “Aha” moments.

Thank you to the Board, Team, Extended team, the Super 30 ERCs, Facilitators, and most importantly, all 500 of you amazing Yatris who made this journey unforgettable.

Yaaron Chalo!

Pranaadhika Sinha Devburman
Editor
"You should be proud to have been selected to join the Yatra amongst over 10000 aspirants. You represent the crème de la crème of your region’s sharpest and keenest minds desirous of pursuing a path of creative enterprise that will benefit you, the people and region around you and the country at large.

In its 11th year, Jagriti Yatra has evolved into an outstanding program. It is an ambitious journey of about 8000 kms with 12 pitstops across all regions of the country. With visits to several role model social and commercial enterprises, a number of panel discussions and presentations and business planning exercise, it is our endeavor to expose you to the diverse socio-economic, cultural environment of the country, the challenges and opportunities that different enterprises/regions in the country face and the grit, determination and passion that drives successful enterprises.

It is an excellent opportunity for you to see, experience, learn, imbibe and interact with 500 others like you. See it as a journey of discovery for you and it is up to you to make the most of it. At the end of the Yatra if you understand the context in which you live, develop a realization of your’self and have better clarity on your future agenda, our mission will be accomplished.

Kudos to the team that has put together the Yatra in all its complexity for you. The team has put tireless efforts over several months to communicate with you, manage the selection process, secure the train, schedule the journey and stops, logistics at the stops, catering, security, on journey communication, programming, experts’ participation etc etc. I do hope you will enjoy the experience and have fun as you go along. I wish you the very best for the Yatra beyond."
"You are about to embark on a journey of a lifetime – of two short weeks yes, compared to a life journey, but a rich tapestry too not just in landscapes and locations but in the experience of enterprise and entrepreneurship on and off the train. Yatris before you have said that they were awestruck with the vision and drive of the social entrepreneurs they were introduced to.

Being with others like yourselves on the train have led Yatris towards goal clarity, finding start-up cofounders, and lasting friendships.

The cultures, personalities and beliefs represented on the Yatra is breathtaking diversity – move with it and absorb as much as you can. It has been called a transformative experience by some, unique by others. You will certainly find something to remember and reflect on during and after the journey. Celebrate those discoveries as you consider your life and your future."

SHASHANK MANI
Jagriti Yatra
Dear Yatris

The Yatra Saar is a celebration of sleepless nights, hard work by the team and dedicated ERCs, all of whom have come together to make it a successful journey. It is a celebration of all of us who have been the part of the 11th year of the world’s largest entrepreneurial train journey.

Looking at this Yatra Saar will remind the Yatris of the rollercoaster of challenges, emotions, learning, and laughter. To the ERC’s it will remind everyone of the committed efforts which were voluntarily given round the clock; for the team it will remind us of an entire year’s work, weekly Saturday calls and last minute rush.

It is never easy to compile all the beautiful moments of such an incredible journey! The smiling faces of the housekeeping staff, the “chai garam” calls of the catering staff, the “Yatris, move!” of the Disha team, to the “Hi, where are you from?” moments from fellow Yatris may not be part of this Saar, but what remain in the hearts of all the you. Over the last 15 days an entire team has tried to put the historic expedition in words or photos.

The Yatris who have contributed and volunteered for Yatra Saar had yatra even after 7th January 2019. Everyone battled regular daily schedule for writing and editing of each piece to bring to you something that you shall fondly refer back to with love when you miss your life on the train and the bonds forged.

Pragati Baheti
Alumni Engagement Manager, Jagriti Yatra

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THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THE

WORLD'S LARGEST
ENTREPRENEURIAL TRAIN JOURNEY

[Logos of various companies]
Did You Know?
The distance travelled in last 11 years by Yatris is equivalent to travelling twice around the circumference of the Earth.

Astounding! Isn’t It?
Jagriti Yatra, the World's Largest Train journey, inspires and supports entrepreneurship among the youth of India, especially among those belonging to small towns and villages. It is a 15-day, 8000 km national train journey which takes selected entrepreneurial youth to meet the role models—social and business entrepreneurs who are developing unique solutions to India's developmental challenges. Jagriti Yatra has created an average of 65 enterprises per year across myriad sectors of healthcare, knowledge, agriculture, housing, water, tourism and others.

### About Jagriti Yatra

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### Journey

Each year this phenomenal journey begins on Christmas Eve for 15 days till 8th Jan covering 12 locations and thousands of people in the process. This is one of the core offerings as it helps youngsters undergo several psychological, physical, emotional changes during the Yatra as they overcome their inhibitions, struggles and infrastructural surrounding changes to adapt and embrace the real India.

### Philosophy

The vision of Jagriti Yatra is to inspire young Indians living in the middle of the Indian demographic diamond to lead development by taking to the enterprise. By doing so, they turn from being job seekers to job creators. Apart from this economic argument, they also discover a purpose that is appropriate for their talents. Only if we create a movement around enterprise led development will India's youth employment and development issues will be resolved.
CELEBRATING 11TH YEAR OF
THE JAGRITI YATRA

After eleven years of traversing the nation, the Yatra has established a vastly-growing network across the nation, with over 5000+ Yatris around the globe. When a journey covers over 88,000 kilometers in total, and reaches out to 500+ individuals each year, it does not take much thinking to realize how truly path-breaking the Yatra is.

The idea of developing India through the development of enterprise which are anchored in Tier 2 and Tier 3 towns-districts-villages, is revolutionary, and the actual task, daunting. Some would balk at the idea of abandoning their comfort zones in lieu of setting up base in a developing area, while some would remain entirely apathetic to the idea. However once these people are part of the Yatra and are provided with both, exposure and opportunity to take their ideas forward in these areas, there is no stopping them. The Yatra fever has been known to transform lives, mindsets, and entire business ideas, the results of which can be seen at both, district as well as village level.

Job seeking is balanced with job creation, and problem identification with suggested solutions or a plan of action; Jagriti Yatra brings out the power of introspection, communication, collaboration, and exploration.

From the role model visits to the Biz Gyan Tree exercise, each experience during the Yatra is carefully structured, leaving enough room for reflection, debate, and fresh ideas. This philosophy of being solution-minded applies to every aspect of the Yatra, from its planning, to the various operational elements that go into running the 15-day programme. Suggestions and feedback are encouraged along with escalation of issues; needless to say our Yatris have made us proud on multiple occasion by asking burning questions and ensuring that issues in their areas are resolved through the intervention of a role model or influencer.

This year the Yatra expanded its base network by yet another 500, adding new countries to the vast list from which many foreign Yatris have come onboard; also special were the diverse groups of community members from various communities who joined us, sharing stories of struggle, hardship, and overcoming of obstacles. We were fortunate as always to have onboard with us, various stalwarts from the fields of business, arts, sports, culture, and other verticals, each of whom regaled us with interesting real life anecdotes, and patiently addressed the constant flow of questions regarding enterprise, inspiration, and growth.
Kuchh badal raha, kuchh badlenge;  
Tab badlega, jab badlenge  
Kuchh dekha hai, kuchh dekhenge;  
Kuchh likh ha, kuchh likh denge...

Yaaron chalo! Badalne ki rut hai;  
Yaaron chalo! Sawarne ki rut hai  
Hawa keh rahi tu theherna nahi;  
Gagan keh raha tu pighalna nahi  
Zameen keh rahi mujhko chhuke to dekh;  
Arey ankein mila, sach se darna nahi  
Yaaron chalo! Badalne ki rut hai;  
Yaaron chalo! Sawarne ki rut hai.

Translation

Some of the things are changing, and some we will change  
They will change only when we change;  
Some of the things are written, some we will write;  
Let’s go friends, it’s the season of change!  
Let’s go friends, it’s the season of betterment!  
The wind is asking us not to stop;  
The sky is asking us not to melt,  
The earth is asking us to touch and feel it;  
Look into my eyes, and don’t fear the truth  
Let’s go friends, it’s the season of change!  
Let’s go friends, it’s the season of betterment
“This is not any regular song that just stays in our lives for fifteen days – this song is instead a constant source of motivation – an anthem that keeps us moving forward despite the obstacles”.

“The words are a magic potion that promotes synergy. It’s an instant energy booster. It’s an instant wake-up call. It’s a sound of unison that leaves us with goosebumps”

“The Geet tells us that there is hope for a better tomorrow, that there are solutions to today’s problems. It tells us that we can count on each other. The words, we know by heart; the essence of the Geet, we have imbibed since the start.”
JAGRITI IS A PLATFORM FOR ENTERPRISE LEADERS WHO SEEK TO “BUILD INDIA THROUGH ENTERPRISE” THROUGH A SCALABLE DISTRICT ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT MODEL THAT CAN TRANSFORM THE 219 ‘MIDDLE INDIA’ (TIER 2 AND TIER 3) DISTRICTS OF THIS COUNTRY AND PROVIDE INDIA’S YOUTH WITH PURPOSE, SOLVING THE MANY CHALLENGES OUR COUNTRY IS FACING. JAGRITI SEEKS TO BUILD AND CONNECT 1 LAKH LEADERS IN THE NEXT 15 YEARS JAGRITI MISSION 400 MILLION YOUTH IN 219 DISTRICTS OF MIDDLE INDIA MIDDLE INDIA. 800 MILLION APPROX 219 1 LAKH LEADERS NEEDED DISTRICTS TO TRANSFORM INDIA

JAGRITI SEEKS TO BUILD AND CONNECT 1 LAKH LEADERS IN THE NEXT 15 YEARS
Jagriti Yatra is a proven movement to bring leaders from all states together on a national platform that connects them to each other and to other nation builders.

Jagriti Enterprise Network is a network of leaders and entrepreneurs that can aid in enterprise market connects and other services including mentoring.

Jagriti Enterprise Centre is a world-class incubation centre with processes that brings key enterprise services in Tier 2 & 3 districts, sourcing from the national network, using onground enterprise facilitators (the Udyam Corps).

Jagriti Enterprise Centre Purvanchal (JEC-P) is a regional incubator that supports local enterprises, with an objective to create employment, generate livelihoods, and inject funds in local ecosystem.

Jagriti Ambassadors for District Entrepreneurs (JADE) is an outreach program targeted at the youth of Tier 2 & 3 districts of India. The program is executed by the alumni ambassadors (volunteers) of Jagriti Yatra. Reimagining JADE as ‘leader hunters’ in their districts, JADE organizes events and activities to promote entrepreneurship in their districts along with recruiting for Jagriti Yatra. JADE also looks for prospective entrepreneurial leaders who can be supported by Jagriti Enterprise Centre initiatives. In 2018, JADE will cover 60 districts and by 2021, all 219 tier 2 and tier 3 districts.
Jagriti Yatra takes 500 handpicked entrepreneurial youths across a 15-day, 8000 km long train odyssey to meet and learn from the real heroes of India.

Teams of successful pitches from the Biz Gyan Tree exercise during rail Yatra are invited to Deoria for a residential program of 2 weeks to build a detailed business plan.

Two day conclave with thought leaders, personalities local and national to discuss state of affairs and interventions.

Meeting with ex-yatris at various locations to share status, progress of jagriti and discuss successes and innovations by yatripreneurs.

Jagriti & Coca-Cola India come together to offer a platform to aspiring entrepreneurs across various districts of India. Sustainable Enterprise Award (SEA) is an opportunity for aspiring entrepreneurs, across 219 selected tier 2&3 district of India, having enterprises in fields of water, agriculture & recycling. SEA is trying to hunt grass-root talent who are projected to impact.
It is popularly stated that the train runs on the blood, sweat and tears of the Engine Room Club. This extended team of 30 former Yatris who return to the Yatra with the will to help in executing it successfully. Operations, Programming, Punctuality, Water filling, Crowd Management, Media and Branding, Control Room, Stores work in harmony, sometimes weeks before and after the Yatra in order to ensure efficient functioning. Some ERC’s have been coming back to the Yatra for 10 years, while others, bitten by the Yatra bug, return less than a year after being Yatris.

Handling the operations of an entire train filled to capacity with diverse personalities can be quite an arduous task! Ask an ERC if their journey onboard has been without some adventure, drama, or debate, and they will smile knowingly, sometimes sharing stories of left luggage being tracked from one location to another, staying up till the wee hours in order to fill water for the bathrooms, or even chasing the odd errant Yatri around from the venue to the bus in order to reach the station on time!
indeed the yatra will never be complete without the ERC's, and the ERC's in turn, may not feel entirely complete without another addictive yatra experience under their belts.

Punctuality
Chinmay Vadnre
Adhavan Rathinaswamy
Rahul Sharma
Nakul Gupta

Programming
Brijesh Parsad
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Jes Mathew

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Saumya Jain

Stores
Shubhada Kasle
Narayan Chapke

Dignitaries Management
Durgesh Rawat

Bathroom
Rameshwar Singh
Vipul Kalra
Vinod Jadhav

Dr. on Train
Dr Surendra Singh
Minakshi Sharma

Content
Disha Pande (Sponsored Candidates)
Blog- Pooja Akula

Cinematography and Photography
Indian Motion Picture Entertainment
Destination, Mumbai
Murtza Rofa
Sahil Gaikwad

Control room and Translation
Sundaram Ojha

Housekeeping
Priyanka Thomake

Electrical
Kshitij Lunkad

Stores
Shubhada Kasle
Narayan Chapke

Dignitaries Management
Durgesh Rawat
"To me, Jagriti Yatra is a plethora of experiences, a lushness of diversity and fruition of inspired learning. It is the passion of the Yatris; there attitude that stimulates your ideas and attitude and keeps pulling back to the Yatra."

Kshitij Lunkad, Electrical

"The Yatra for me has been a strong influence in my personal and professional life, with its unique approach to both inward and outward exploration of potential. The Yatra is an indelible part of my existence, and each year keeps getting more inspiring"

Pranaadhika Sinha Devburman, Social Media

"For me, it's a journey of inner self. It's not just about the travel – it's about the people, surroundings and bonds which make this journey more beautiful. JY has energized the entire year..."

Saumya Jain, Social Media

"The Yatra gives you an opportunity to explore yourself beyond your comfort zone. It is indeed a platform where ideas are catalyzed into real tangible results"

Shubham Rathod, Social Media

"Every year I come, it's never the same thing. It's new and unique, with new people, new experiences and new learnings. Each Yatri brings with them stories, each one so beautiful"

Brijesh Prasad, Programming

"It changed my point of view to look at every single thing. It was more of learning from other ERCs and Team. We were experienced power of team work every now and then. It was just Amazing!"

Shubhada Kasle, Stores

"Jagriti Yatra has brought in a lifetime of learnings for me. I can put a hand on my heart and say I'm at this stage with the network that comes together! Capacity + Capability building exercise for bold change agents across various verticals!"

Vyshali Sagar, Programming

"Being a part of the team since past 4 years, JY has always helped me grow and know myself. It helped me to boost up my inner talent by facing all kind of situations that came up. So JY for me is a sea full of learning, just be ready to grasp the opportunity."

Akash Gosavi, Transport

"Jagriti Yatra is a one of a kind experience. The Yatra has made me realise and learn from the unseen side of the country, it’s people and practices."

Vipul Kalra, Bathroom

"When I was a Yatri, the Yatra was a spark for my life. I feel that the 15 days is like an MBA program for the ERC team. It helped me realise my potential."

Narayan Chapke, Stores

"Jagriti Yatra for me was not only about travelling for 15 days in a train, it gave me ability to find out my inner spark and go forward with it. So this year it was my time to give it back to the Yatra."

Leena Borhade, Branding

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Leena Borhade, Branding

"The eagerness to learn more and to be the part of “We are India We are Change” got me back to the Yatra. It has been one of the best learning experiences by far for me."

Priyanka Ankush Thumke, Housekeeping

"It changed my point of view to look at every single thing. It was more of learning from other ERCs and Team. We were experienced power of team work every now and then. It was just Amazing!"

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MAKING CONNECTIONS
A deceptively simple ice-breaking exercise which often concludes with tears, laughter, and highly-charged emotions of the purest kind, the lifeline exercise enables cohorts to get to know one another’s life story in mere minutes. All that one needs, is some stationary and empathetic listeners, and that is it.

The inspiration, mutual admiration, and familial bonding which results from this simple exercise would be difficult to define in words, but it would suffice to say that it forms a strong base on which individuals develop both, empathy as well as common ground on which to build themselves and also their respective enterprises.
Identified from within and around the Yatri network, a number of individuals have been carefully selected among the vast pool of inspiring personalities who have made invaluable contributions in their respective fields. Curated with the intention of not only inspiring, but also willingly mentoring Yatris, these role models come onboard and selflessly share time, experience, and resources with the hordes of participants who crowd packed chair car and compartments in order to listen, learn, and engage. There is never a dull moment during a role model interaction, as they field ceaseless questions, offer key insights, and pass on words of wisdom from their many years of experience in the arts, business, and development world.

One’s assumptions are also often challenged owing to the diverse backgrounds from which these role models belong. “It is quite rare to find a corporate suit wearing role model on the Yatra,” has been an interesting observation by a Yatri, althemore inspiring since the Yatra essentially strips away the illusions which surround the business and enterprise world. One can build a sustainable enterprise from limited resources as seen in Kalkeri Sangeet Vidyalaya and Barefoot College, and one can deliver one of the most powerful speeches on women’s empowerment without needing to belong to a tier 1 space, as experienced during a chair car session with a group of adivasi women who enthralled all with their enterprise success stories.
CHAIR CAR SESSIONS

A HIGHLIGHT OF EVERY DAY ONBOARD THE JAGRITI EXPRESS, CHAIR CAR SESSIONS HAVE LONG SERVED THE YATRA AS A SPACE FOR COMMUNICATION, COLLABORATION, DISCUSSION, AND DURING LIGHTER MOMENTS, MOBILE CHARGING AND POWER NAPS. FEATURING INTERACTIONS WITH BOTH, GUESTS AND ROLE MODELS, SOME SESSIONS ARE ORGANIZED BY INTEREST GROUPS CREATED BY YATRI GROUPS OVER THE COURSE OF THE JOURNEY ITSELF.

CHAIR CAR PRESENTATIONS FEATURING THE YATRIS SHARING THEIR CRITICAL ANALYSIS OF ROLE MODELS INVOLVE MULTIPLE CHALLENGES. THE PROCESS OF PREPARING FOR A CHAIR CAR PRESENTATION INVOLVES AN ABUNDANCE OF TIME MANAGEMENT SKILL, ART AND CRAFT WORK, THEATRICAL EXPERTISE, AND SOMETIMES EVEN SONG WRITING! ENTHRALING AUDIENCES WITH ROLE PLAYS, MUSIC, COMEDY, AND UNIQUE MEANS THROUGH WHICH THE TEAMS INVITE ATTENDEES, ENCOMPASS A UNIQUE, QUINTESSENTIALLY JAGRITI EXPERIENCE.
The Jagriti Enterprise Mela provides an interactive platform in the form of a social enterprise carnival, or “mela”, and enables conversations with entrepreneurs who have set up and scaled up enterprises belonging to a wide range of verticals keeping sustainability as a focus. A number of enterprises are frequent participants in the mela, with their products filling a gaping hole in the market for accessible, earth-friendly products which are home grown.
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One of the highlights of the Yatra over the years has been the Biz (Business) Gyan Tree exercise, which concludes with a 5-minute business pitch from teams which are divided according to their chosen areas of interest. Located in Deoria where the Yatris spend an entire day and night, the freezing weather and unspoilt natural beauty enable teams to understand issues at ground level, and develop their ideas accordingly. Within this agenda, Jagriti looks to adapt and replicate successful enterprise models, so that these can be scaled up across Middle India. Each district will act as an epicentre of development for all nearby regions. The Biz Gyan Tree exercise is a real life lesson in how to organize and pitch a business plan, the winner of which receives funding, incubation, and expansion related opportunities.
The "Indo-German Institute of Advanced Technology" or IGIAT, has been established as an autonomous society run institute with initial funding and infrastructure provided by the Government of Andhra Pradesh, India, and the Federal Republic of Germany. The institute focuses on two verticals; technical training for skill upgradation of unskilled youth, and project designing and execution till turn-key condition for various municipal corporations and independent external agencies.

For technical training verticals, fields range from basic electric, textile stitching, and plumbing training to skill development in robotics, CAD, and solar labs. The institute provides paid courses across the whole range of fields. It also partners with industry CSR, and aims to help provide specific skill training to youth free of cost. The Institute has also received support from industry partners like Schneider Electric Foundation, Blue Star and Bharat Dynamics Limited for setting up technology labs. On the project designing and execution front, multiple projects have been worked on especially in the field of sewage treatment. Project locations and geographies have varied from coastal plains in Andhra Pradesh to the cold mountainous terrains of Jammu and Kashmir.

As an institute, it is one of the few centres in Andhra Pradesh which can issue skill certificates to un-certified skilled labour after a completion of course. The Institute ensures more than 80% placement ratios with further support to students for 3 months after joining the company. It also receives orders from the apparel industry for cutting and stitching of shirts. For such orders, the institute employs 65 skilled women which have been trained in-house.

In conclusion, IGIAT aims to be a successful academic and design centre and achieves the same.
With its offering of both, eye-catching 360 degree views of picturesque surroundings as well as a ready-to-use ecosystem for startups, Innovation Valley in Vizag presented a bright picture for Yatris and the general Fintech ecosystem in general. The Fintech Valley in Vizag is a self-sustainable global Fintech Ecosystem that focuses on converging finance and technology to create large avenues of growth through industry-enablers, world-class infrastructure, entrepreneurship and innovation.

Global financial services companies, government and academia come together in this valley to build capacity, infrastructure, market access, connectivity, funding channels, and incentive mechanisms to achieve unmatched business goals and successes. Startups, financial Institutions, technology vendors, incubators/accelerators/innovation labs, and investors simultaneously contribute to and thrive in this ecosystem at the speed of business. Innovation Valley is new, but already a name to reckon with as an all-in-one incubator for young companies.
PATHBREAKERS

AND

CHANGEMAKERS
It is with a deep love that boundaries get blurred at Kalkerí Sangeet Vidyalaya, a quaint establishment consisting of huts made up of wood and mud, tucked away amid tranquil greens near Dharwad. A lady from France has come to experience a life beyond materialism. She seeks to give, without expecting anything in return. She’ll be here for a while, teaching art and music to the children from nearby villages. She gets oodles of love in return. It is this spirit of giving that makes Kalkerí so unique.

Adam Woodward, host and the director of the school delivered his address to the Yatris. He pointed out that the discrimination in the world has reached new low and KSV is attempting to set the level playing field. KSV as an NGO, family, Music school and Academic school is striving to give access to holistic education to the kids from various walks of life. This in a way is enabling parents who can’t afford schools with arts. By bridging the gap between cultural arts with education, KSV is setting a new standard in the dual education system with its successful model where students spend a major portion of their time learning classical music along with academics. Kids can choose their specialization after 4 years of studying music in general. KSV is currently running on the funds raised from sponsorships, CSR grants, and government grants. They also have a volunteer program which attracts 500 participants every year from 16 different countries around the world. The Q&A session uncovered something special, where Adam said they are trying to preserve the Guru Shishya parampara, which comes from the gurukul concept of ancient India. Also, when asked if he faced any problem as an outsider, he replied gracefully by saying that “If someone considers me an outsider, it shows the character of the person”.

KALKERI SANGEET VIDYALAYA
Dharwad district, Hubli, Karnataka
SAIREEE CHAHL
FOUNDER

SHEROES is a women’s community platform, offering support, resources, opportunities and interactions via Sheroes.com and the SHEROES App.

SHEROES – Communities for Women, is a safe and trusted space, where members discuss health, careers, relationships and share their life stories, achievements and moments. The app also offers a dedicated ask SHEROES helpline where community members can talk to counsellors on all aspects of their growth journeys.

SHEROES offers its enterprise customers a range of products including Brand Solutions, SHE – Prevention of Sexual Harassment at Work platform, and a Managed Remote Solutions program. Additionally, SHEROES hosts the SHEROES Summit, a multi-city annual flagship event and #theshift Series – changing the gender narrative, alongside the community meets across geographies.

In the next five years, the SHEROES stack aims to put 100 million women on the growth road map. In 2018, we were awarded by the IAMAI Digital Awards in the "Social & Economic Empowerment" category.

Onalytica’s "Future of work Top 100 influencers and brands" featured our founder Sairee Chahal at No.53 in the influencer list and SHEROES at No.30 in the brands’ category.
MR JANARDHAN SWAHAR ADDRESSED THE YATRIS. SWAHAR STARTED THE COMPANY IN 2011 IN SALEM BEFORE MOVING TO BANGALORE IN 2014. HE IS AN INVESTMENT BANKER TURNED ENTREPRENEUR. EVERY MINUTE IN THE DAY HE IS PASSIONATELY INNOVATING ON NEW AND SIMPLE THINGS THAT WILL ENABLE PEOPLE HAVE MORE OUT OF LIFE. SWAHAR IS ARDENT FOODIE AND HAS A UNIQUE TALENT OF BEING ABLE TO IDENTIFY EVERY INGREDIENT IN THE FOOD, HOWEVER COMPLICATED IT MAY BE. BY DAY HE IS AT YCOOK, IN HIS SPARE TIME HE IS AN ADVENTURE FREAK AND A DOTTING FATHER, BE IT PARA-JUMPING OFF A CLIFF OR PLAYING HORSE FOR HIS DAUGHTERS, HE HAS THE FULLEST OF IT ALL.

Y-COOK IS A FOOD TECHNOLOGY COMPANY, CREATING A NEW CATEGORY IN THE FOOD SPACE – THE CATEGORY OF MINIMALLY PROCESSED VEGETABLES, LENTILS AND FRUITS. THEIR UNIQUE AND DIFFERENTIATED PROCESSING ALLOWS FIELD FRESH PRODUCE TO RETAIN THEIR NATURAL FRESHNESS, COLOUR, TEXTURE, FLAVOUR AND NUTRIENTS FOR 12 MONTHS WITHOUT ANY PRESERVATIVES OR ADDITIVES OR EVEN REFRIGERATION. BY BRINGING TOGETHER HEALTH, TASTE, AND CONVENIENCE, Y-COOK MAKE IT EASIER THAN EVER FOR PEOPLE TO ENJOY HOME GOURMET. BEING GOOD TO YOURSELF HAS NEVER BEEN SO EASY!
Globally, about 2 crore people suffer from cataract, a condition which causes needless blindness. About one-third of this population resides in India. Established as a single hospital with eleven beds in Madurai in 1976 by "Dr. V", Aravind Eye Care set out with the vision of providing solution for cataract in Tamil Nadu and the rest of India. 42 years later, this has evolved into a vision of global proportions with a model that is now practised in about 25 countries across the world.

For budding and established entrepreneurs, Aravind carries one more critical lesson - scaling impact over scaling the organization must be the endeavour of every mission-driven enterprise. Instead of guarding its model, Aravind follows its mission with unquenching focus. Aravind today believes that in order to achieve its goal, it doesn’t have to be the one to establish hospitals all over the country and the world. Instead, it has chosen to expand traditionally in its own geography (southern India), but freely distribute its model to other hospitals through consulting training, and on-going support all over the world. Directly conducting ~5 lakh surgeries annually today, this approach will help it support over 20 lakh surgeries annually indirectly, across 25 countries.

In 1976, when Dr V started Aravind's first hospital, he probably did not imagine the scale of transformation that Aravind would help drive. Today, the organization's culture, values, commitment, and competence have made ending needless blindness a global possibility.
Upon reaching the vast 10,000 acre area, the Yatris were taken on a tour of various manufacturing units within Sri City. 12.5% of the area is a dedicated green zone. Offering readymade manufacturing solutions to hundreds of well-known companies, it also employs a workforce of close to 35,000 people of which 25,000 are engaged in working at the many manufacturing units. This provision of employment for previously unemployed families has ensured an improved quality of life along with greater professional prospects for them. Ensuring that it follows stringent sustainability practices, Sri City practices rainwater harvesting, has installed solar panels. It remains as being one of the few self-sustaining smart cities in the country.
Preparing 1.5 million daily mid-day meals for children across the country would not be possible without innovative technology. There is a high focus on making Automated and semi-automated Kitchens. The team is always challenged to create more efficient kitchens that can serve more and more children in the schools. They have stringent quality checks for ensuring quality and hygiene. 60-70% women are employed in order to encourage and empower women. The model is easily replicable and the foundation already has kitchens in 24 locations across 10 states in India. They recently celebrated the serving of 3 billion meals across India.

Some Interesting Facts and Figures:
- Serves 1.4 million children from 10,845 schools across 10 states in India.
- Kitchens in 24 locations spread across 10 states in India.
- The entire process is managed so that children receive food which is fresh.
- They serve 30 different menus throughout the month.
Joe Madiath is a social entrepreneur who started Gram Vikas in 1979 with the aim to improve quality of life of the poor and marginalized rural communities. Gram Vikas, which literally means ‘Village Development’, is an organization that was started to provide quality water and sanitation facilities for the poor people of Orissa. Today, Gram Vikas helps marginalized tribal groups organize themselves to solve a wide range of social and health problems. They create high impact community-driven solutions for rural areas. Gram Vikas has impacted over 400,000 individuals and 70,000 families through various programs and interventions.

Sanitation is not just about having toilets, it is also about the provision of running water. Gram Vikas is an amazing demonstration of the community-based water distribution system and sanitation. They work in villages with a tribal population largely ignored otherwise. Joe later spoke about the importance of the team- The biggest challenge that he has faced is having a big team. “We need people who are passionate and dedicated,” he said. The good team can multiply the impact of an organization many folds.
Nalanda is the ancient seat of learning and is one of the first universities in the World. Nalan means lotus and Da means giving. Nalanda is, therefore, the place that gives lotus, lotus being a symbol of knowledge.

It is said to have been visited by both Buddha and Mahavir. The beautiful, serene and green campus is an expression of the perfect harmony between man and nature. This residential University had a 5:1 student-teacher ratio depicting the value of student-mentor relationship and the concept of learning as a part of living. Scholars from places around the World including China, Mongolia, Sri Lanka, Japan, South East Asia, Tibet, Turkey visited the university in pursuit of knowledge. At the end of the twelfth century, the university was destroyed by the invaders. The environment, however, still fills the heart of every visitor with feelings of tranquillity and introspection. While some Yatris found themselves lost in the picturesque environs, others wondered in the midst of a lush green garden and remains of a structure that is an epitome of knowledge.
Anshu Gupta founded GOONJ in 1998 with a mission to make clothing a matter of concern for the development sector. Anshu’s work with GOONJ highlights a core challenge of our times, the growing gap between the urban prosperity & rural poverty. His work has game-changing elements in many ways; he has taken the menacing growth of urban waste and used it effectively and efficiently as a tool to trigger large scale development work on diverse issues; roads, water, environment, education, health etc.

Anshu brings to the table an instinctive empathy and connects with people. He is dignifying the act of giving. People earn clothes with dignity rather than getting it as charity. Similarly old school material goes as reward against a series of activities instead of traditional charitable way of giving which Anshu says – “It is an act of killing someone’s dignity at the childhood itself”. The fundamental questions raised by Anshu left Yatris numb- “why should we pay toll taxes? Why do we not feel safe to keep our daughters alone at home?”. The intensity in his voice was striking. His message was clear- We need to be doers, not just dreamers. We need to confront our realities. We need to be the change we wish to see in the world. “Once we have the purpose the path will follow”.
The Barefoot College has demystified technologies and decentralised their uses by transferring the access, control, management and ownership of sophisticated technologies to rural men and women, who can barely read and write. The College believes that everyone has the right to use technology to improve their lives and skills.

Sanjit “Bunker” Roy is a pioneer who dared to challenge conventionalism by venturing into the village of Tilonia with a view to tapping the potential of rural India. The word Barefoot is a metaphor for people who have not received formal education. Albert Einstein had aptly echoed the sentiment, “Education is what remains after one has forgotten what one has learnt in school.” So, education is not only about going to school. This college trains people in making solar equipment and maintaining it.

The impact of Barefoot College is evident in the spirit and confidence of the women in Tilonia. They’re skilled, intelligent and despite the language barrier are able to train hundreds of foreign women and spread their knowledge across the globe. It’s true to say if you train a woman you train a generation.
The Sabarmati Ashram is located on the banks of the Sabarmati river, and symbolises a space for learning and reflection. The Yatris listened to the essence of Gandhiji’s teachings courtesy Jayesh Bhai Patel, Head of Manav Sadhana, an NGO dedicated towards the upliftment of underprivileged communities through love. Children sang soul-stirring notes of the song “Raghupati Raghav” and were joined by the enthused audience. Jayesh Bhai highlighted the fact that Gandhiji chose the current location of this Ashram as it was in close proximity to a prison and a cremation ground. He thought that a freedom fighter should be willing to accept the fate of going to any of these places for the sake of his motherland. Many participants and facilitators had a brief and hearty conversation with Jayeshbhai who reciprocated every sentiment of theirs with love and bonhomie. Everyone was humbled by the aura of this amazing place. Thus, visit the Sabarmati Ashram left an indelible impression on the minds of one and all present.
PANEL DISCUSSIONS
For any country to prosper, the population needs to be healthy in order to be efficiently performing; this was the primary topic of discussion, which covered multiple development issues aside from health.

We understand problems revolve around availability, accessibility and especially affordability of healthcare. Healthcare is not completely accessible in India. As per a recent WHO report, the right to health means access to universal health coverage should be timely, good quality, affordable, acceptable and appropriate.

• Disposable devices and eco-friendly practices in medical fields are the need of the day. Digitization leads to standardization helping to reach the masses for which training and capacity building of doctors is required.
• International Health Magazine Argues that 40% population of 1.25 Billion Indians are not accessible to hospitals. This results in premature death, lack of medical awareness, missing workforce participation due to prolonged illness and other problems.
• The crux of discussion turned out that the innovations in healthcare should be patient-centric and scalable. The innovations thus should be responsible and eco-friendly too.
• The current scenario in India is that we go from solution to problem i.e. We build a device and then search for the authenticity of devices whereas problems need to be addressed first to reach the solution.
• Education training of primary health care doctors, collaborating for training with the government giving incentives to the doctor for free learning and practices needs to be adopted.
Women in India are the backbone of enterprise — they labour away in villages, small and large towns that dot the landscape as the Jagriti Express travels across India. Moderator for the evening, author Rashmi Bansal started the conversation with Meghana Kambham (Founder - Carengrow), Likitha Bhanu (Co-founder and CEO, Terra Green Organic) and Shilpanjani Dantu (Founder - Yo Vizag), and India’s only Rhythmic gymnast, Meghna Gundlapally.

The conversation was peppered with personal stories from all the panelists, where they talked about overcoming challenges from home and from within themselves while pursuing their dreams. Likhita who works with her mother talked about the power of having family support, whereas Shilpanjani stated that she took a calculated risk while founding Yo Vizag, and was prepared for failure. Meghna stressed on understanding people's needs completely and providing customized care rather than just standard service, whereas Meghna spoke about the need for discipline and practice no matter which field one belonged to. Breaking the glass ceiling was and still is a difficult task, but the vastly growing number of women taking over a plethora of careers will go a long way in ensuring that it is well and truly smashed.
The discussion was hosted by Ravi Ranjan, Founder - Starting up with Ravi Ranjan. The panel consisted of Neha Jain (Z Nation Lab), Sanjay Shetty (50k ventures), and Subboraj (Cross Border).

Neha runs her startup named Accelerator, which is based out of Mumbai and Silicon Valley (US). They invest in the ideas which work on issues on the ground. They also run an exciting Zee national lab open innovation challenge. Apart from that, they work with the corporate sector and match them with startups. They partner with incubators too. For the newbies, they help to understand the demand, what works and what does not, selecting a team, etc. Neha also feels that social media is still not saturated and there are a lot of resources which early startups can use free.

Sanjay found 50k ventures in 2014, angel investment to early-stage enterprises. He started his career in 2009 as a volunteer for Head start. He believes that the ecosystem has changed for startups and opportunities have increased. They have funded 20+ companies until. When asked about what investors do when the investment fails immensely? he said they are ready for it, as 95% startups fail. Although if reasons are genuine, an investor can invest in the same people again! Although in extreme cases, the founders can be blacklisted too.
Entrepreneurship is not a destination but a journey.

Subbu worked as an HR professional for more than a decade, before he started Cross Borders in 2012. They provide existing organisations with the end to end solutions. They target to reach every part of India by 2021, which has been divided into 8 tiers according to the population. When asked about when to leave a job and start an enterprise, he says passion is the key to build an enterprise. You need to love your idea and be responsible as you will feed others and not just yourself.

When asked about what investors look, the panellists said the idea should solve a problem. Timing, people, Vision, scalability, and revenue generation matter a lot. Nevertheless, the idea should be realistic and based on need.

On the valuation of an existing organisation, Sanjay said it depends on the founder’s equity.

"Fail Fast (Silicon valley jargon)- Know when to quit than elongating failure."

"It is not about gain or loss. The investor invests to grow along panellists."

Also, the panel unanimously supported that at times there are ideas which are backed by purpose and values. Such exceptional ideas are always welcomed and supported even if revenues are not generated. One such example is Ambi, supported by venture catalyst.
As a fitting end to the 15-day journey, the final Panel discussion located in Ahmedabad was titled “Yaaron Chalo Yatripreneurs”, and endeavored to chronicle the learning journeys of Edward Yee (GivFunds), Deepika Prasad (Lakeer), Anurag Maloo (Tech Starts), and Frederick “Freddy” Devarampati (Stumagz), with Ashutosh Kumar, CEO Jagriti Yatra, as moderator.

Ashutosh initiated the discussion with a question around how the journey started with the support of the Jagriti Network. The discussion then moved on to panellists responding to Yatri queries regarding their personal challenges during the entrepreneurial journey.

Edward Yee spoke about surroundings becoming automatically acclimatised to your success once they see how well you have done, thus increasing support for your brand, while Freddy cautioned Yatris to be enthusiastic but not impulsive with their decisions. Anurag stated that as long as your work is your love there are no dark nights. Deepika shared insights on being grounded and disciplined, highlighting the fact that every day brings with it fresh insights and learnings on how to improve one’s process.

The discussion turned up to discuss the first investment. Edward suggested investors profiling is important and investors should be aligned in accordance with the goals of the start-up; in other words, both investor and entrepreneur need to have the same value systems. After funding, the focus shifted to bringing in and retaining customers. Freddy suggested having acceptance power for the rejection and belief in your product. The first customer comes through passion and commitment. Anurag recommended providing value chains through social chains where word of mouth worked best.
The trees of Sakura or the Cherry Blossom, has a significance of growing and changing through seasons which is a symbolic metaphor for life and transformation. Throughout the autumn, summer, and fall the sakura tree grows with little noticeable change; during winters it withers the unforgiving elements from itself, and for just 3 weeks of the year, blossoms during the transition from winter to spring. It is during spring that the fruits of growth of the year are shown. The tree gives its all to nourish the mesmerising, sensitive blossoms.

The respect here though is not only for the spring when it is in full blossom but the transition period from Winter to Spring, where it shreds the parts that are unnecessary and concentrates its energy to awaken itself to full bloom.

The journey of inner transformation is a beautiful gift of a human being. Most human beings are not awakened in this world because during their winters or rest period they don’t allow themselves to see the cherry blossom bloom inside them; it is unseen from where they stand. Once realised and uncovered, however there is nothing to stop the blooming process.

I would call Jagriti Yatra a pathway for every Yatri to transition from winters to spring and bloom like the sakura flower post Yatra.
Our nation has been a forebearer of plurality and diversity; a fact that has been validated across our cultural fabric time and again. The current scenario of our cultural and demographic diversity is a testament for that and young people, spread across the geography of our nation, are a breathing evidence for the same. This edition intends to take you on this journey, a journey that encompasses the passions, dreams, and challenges of a young India. In a time when we are constantly barraged with the information on underemployment and the need to create more jobs, the time is renewed when we ought to celebrate entrepreneurship as a new elixir. Jagriti Yatra is a 15-days entrepreneurial train journey that banks on utilising the fundamental utility of entrepreneurship and takes 500+ aspiring entrepreneurs to closely interact with 12 role-models, circumferencing 8000 kms of the Indian landscape.

2013
Representation from all states and UT also replicated in France by the name ticket for change.

2012
Yatra was replicated for the first time outside India, in the UK by the name of the Millennial Train Journey.

2011
Jagriti Yatra expanded across various verticals, with the help of multiple partner-based models.

2010
First time 50% participation of women.

2009
Biz Gyan Tree was incorporated to empower enterprise development; the concept of ERC was brought into force.

2008
The first Yatra was flagged off from Mumbai, with approx 400 yatras, for over 18 days.

2007
Shashank Mani, Chairman did an exploratory journey over a period of 18 days to understand the essence of real India.

2015
Replicated in Portugal by the name YOYA.

2014
More than 500 successful yatra entrepreneur enterprises are created.

2016
Jagriti Enterprise Mela made its debut, replicated in Peru by the name Waanuru.

2017
500 Yatras were addressed by Hon'ble President of India, at Rashtrapati Bhavan.
- Yatra won the Charity Award in London
- Yatra replicated by Southbank CEC and PWC Partner as drivers for change in London.

The journey has so far, enabled over 1200 entrepreneurs through its ingrowing ecosystem, empowering over 2 million people, along with creating more than 10,000 jobs. The total contribution of yatra enterprises towards Indian GDP reached a whopping figure of more than 200 crores.
At times our own light goes out and is rekindled by a spark from another person. Each of us has cause to think with deep gratitude of those who have lighted the flame within us. – Albert Schweitzer.

Jagriti Yatra is the catalyst which reignites the flame within many of the Yatris, through other Yatris.

You don’t have to see the whole staircase. Just take the first step. Jagriti Yatra, is THAT FIRST STEP for many of the yatris.

Author- Vishnupriya

An Ode To the Yatra
Author-Jeetendra Ajmera

"आज दुनिया से मुलाकात हुई,
कुछ हम मिले, कुछ हमारा वजूद मिला,
पता लगा कि दर्द क्या होता है, तो यह भी पता लगा कि प्यार क्या होता है,
इस दर्द-प्यार के चक्कर में कुछ डर से भी मुलाकात हुई, तो हौसले ने भी दस्तक दी,
अब सब खत्म हो रहा है, या फिर मानो एक नई मोड की शुरुआत है,
पीछे बहुत सारे रिश्ते छूटे जा रहे हैं,
पर शायद बहुत नए रिश्तो का आगाज़ भी होने जा रहा है,
शायद फिर मिल जाएंगे किसी मोड पर यह अनजाने से जाने-पहचाने चेहरे,
जो पहचान लिया तो बढ़िया, इस सफर के नाम फिर उस रात एक जाम लगाएंगे और
yाद करेंगे; इस सफर को,
और जो ना पहचाना, तो फिर आईना तो है ही.”
A Journey of Enlightenment
Author - Ajay Menon

The Yatra gave me many gifts – experiences, insights, exposure, friendships, and treasured memories. It lit a fire in me and gave me a renewed understanding of patriotism and the nation.

Having heard Vanita speak at the Inaugural Ceremony, I was sure that I wanted to have a discussion and pick at her brain. Little did I know that it would culminate into this wonderful friendship, if I may, where we had the space to discuss ideas and work together.

Day 1 on the train and a bunch of us found our way to Vanita’s bogie, 11/4 – the name of our tiny group now! and discussed from the meaning of an entrepreneur, issues of gender discrimination, and institution building. Stimulated by our discussion, I decided to write an article on it, ‘The Importance of Institution Building in India’, and continue our ideas in a full blown AC chair car session.

Two days later, Vanita had planned a session in the AC chair, and she announced in Madurai that I would conduct it! And, we only had about a 10-minute discussion to prepare for it! Vanita opened the discussion and gave the gathering an idea, after which I took over. The topic was, “Collaboration and Competition in Business Enterprise”.

It was an exhilarating experience. We got valuable questions, inputs, and comments and it prompted me to write another article.

Having had two thought-provoking discussions with Vanita, it was a great pleasure to have her join us again at Ahmedabad for the valedictory function. While chatting over tea and bhajjias, we spoke of how great it would have been, if we had the opportunity to conduct the session with all the yatris, and not just those who were able to squeeze into the chair car that day.

She immediately asked me what I thought about building an alumni network. I was thrilled with the idea. We immediately located Ashutosh, and spoke to him about it. He informed us of some efforts in the past, and how he would be glad if we began working on it.

During the valedictory, Vanita announced that I would be working on building a JY Alumni Network– and that we needed all hands on deck. Right after, several yatris walked up and happily offered to help with brainstorming ideas, IT, and software.
MY SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP ADVENTURE

AUTHOR - DISHA UNADKAT

Jagriti Yatra 2018, 500 strangers who have now become an integral part of my everyday routine, 12 diverse places, amazing Role models and one experience! If I were to define the Yatra in one word it is- incredible!!! Though the orientation program guided us through the 15 days train journey roadmap, there was something new, something unusual at all given point of time- a new learning, a new story, some more exposure. Personally, the train made me feel claustrophobic for half an hour on the 8th night but soon thereafter, I remember calling this compartment my home and the cohort- my family. Suddenly 15 days seems to have slipped away too soon.

In spite of all the discomforts, we all wanted to be together, on rails, for more days. It's a journey of self-realisation and makes oneself feel accountable to write India's tomorrow. It prepares us to face the harsh realities, harshly and also guides us paving a way out of the mess, towards being socially responsible. I'd strongly associate Jagriti Yatra to be a Social Entrepreneurship Adventure that today's Youth is ready to take, for a brighter, better tomorrow, for one, for all.

THANK YOU JAGRITI FOR THE BRILLIANT 15 DAYS OF MY LIFE.
**THE FIRE WITHIN**  
**AUTHOR - AKSHAT B**

Yatra has been a raw experience. Getting to know people - changing opinions about people from the first impression to the last moments spent together has been interesting. A group so diverse but inclined to a common interest gives me the confidence to trust the diversity of the country. A vision to create India with Middle India as a central stakeholder, where problems are there to be identified and solved. It is a fire, that is experienced by all of us on the train in each other and the role-models we met. It is a fire, inside us, we need to explore and take it forward.

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**CHANGING LANES**  
**AUTHOR - KAUSHIK**

Before joining Yatra my mindset was like to go for an MBA to get higher salary packages after completing 2 years of job experience with L&T, where currently I am working. Since childhood due to the education system, I was in the race, scoring good marks for higher returns. But due to Yatra, I got the chance to reflect upon myself, to know exactly what I want to do, so Yatra helped me in switching lanes. I met 500 people from diverse backgrounds and learn to live life in a meaningful way. So after completion of Yatra, I have decided not to work for monthly paychecks, instead of job seeker- I will work as a job provider! So Yatra completely changed my mindset. Thank you so much to open my eyes to the new world. So, in short, I can say, the Yatra is one of the biggest "Turning Points" of my life!
Provoking Thoughts
Author - Sanika

Economics, in all its simplicity, is studying where the money comes from and where it goes. While it seeks to understand surpluses, balances and deficits, a person’s ideological and political orientation helps them justify or question these factors.

Throughout my graduation and post-graduation, my ideological compass, determined by the magnet of a rebel, has veered towards the left, wavering between Marxism and Ambedkarism, both of which culminated from the people I met, literature I read and media I came across, reflected upon brainstorming, exploring, writing and formulating my own ideas.

In this course, certain keywords—profit, return on investment, capital, corporate etc. have been triggers of various debates, heated discussions and fallouts.

Jagriti Yatra, aimed at inculcating the spirit of entrepreneurship and setting a vision for developing India through enterprise, was for me a chance to see things from a different perspective. An opportunity to get out of my like-minded circle to meet youth of my own age, pursuing interests in various directions.

India, viewed as a three-part diamond structure, wherein the triangle at the top represents the urbanized, privileged, tier-1 district population, the rectangle in the middle represents the semi-urban, underprivileged but not quite destitute population, living a hand to mouth life, while the inverted triangle at the bottom represents the poorest of the poor.

Superimpose upon this the demographics of this population, roughly coinciding with the map of India—a sparsely populated north, a young, energetic population seeking education, employment and livelihood opportunities in the middle, and a plateauing population in the south.

Shashank Mani, a founder of Jagriti Yatra, spoke of three factors that he termed as revolutionary, to transform this ‘middle’ India.

The first one is alternatives to the current form of development—not merely imitating the energy-guzzling model of the west or the engorged dragon on the east, but charting our own golden mean. The second factor, to harness the potential of the demographic as well as geographic ‘middle’ India. The third factor, to achieve the previous two through enterprise.

According to him, this middle India should not depend on alms or subsidy but should be invested in to sustain their livelihoods organically.

A human-centric, collaborative approach, maintaining diversity, equality and representation, leading to a sustainable business environment, would enable the ‘fertilisation’ of ideas across the country. This made me think of a few questions I will ponder upon as the journey continues—Why shouldn’t we aim at decentralizing existing monopolies trying to maximize profits at the cost of the local enterprise?

Why should cities, which are already overpopulated, be the only refuge for ‘better opportunities’? With increased mechanization, artificial intelligence, reluctance to engage with agriculture and lack of formal employment, how do we positively channelize the energy, skills and creativity of a young, restless population with latent potential?

Will local enterprises provide a personalized alternative to the dehumanized corporate culture of multiple hierarchies?
"15 days, 12 destinations, 8000 km but there are countless interactions, stories and memories. This was an amazing experience of learning with fun. Great combination of contrasts like tasks - games, assignment time - party time, distress - comfort and diversity - unity. Thanks a ton to JY organising team and yatris of JY2018 for unforgettable moments."

Yaaro Chalo... :)

I was overwhelmed to see people from such diverse background and different strata's. The whole experience kept me in awe as I heard many stories some inspiring and some mind-numbing. I feel lucky to be mentioned by Shashank Mani during the introduction at KSV. A Yatri named Dewanshi Patil mentioned my name during an informal talk with him as an interesting person. I met Shashank to explain my work. This small act changed the whole experience. Then after many people came to hear my story and also with an offer as in how can they be a part of this endeavour. I also met people who had academic work on what I am trying to do, i.e to make the world a multilingual place by conserving languages.
There are times in your life when you feel like you are an alien, that while you do as others do, and live like others live, you are still different. That desire to belong, to be with a family, to feel free enough to dream big and aspire for greater things, remains just that, a desire.

From the minute I entered TISS and met the group which by fate, turned out to be my own cohort, I felt like I belonged somewhere. The lifeline sessions, the laughter, the quick intake of breath as I controlled emotions, and the daily adventures inside and out of the train, those were experiences which I will never forget.

I am one of those people, one of many, who come from a small town, and relocated to live a better life amid bustling cityscapes. I am that person who has to run from office every Friday to catch a train to go home, only to run back to the same train to come back to office. That was my life.

My family which I built during the Yatra, is an extended one. It is as special as my own, and those bonds which we developed, will never fade. We changed each other. We gave each other that all important feeling of not being alone. We cast aside the rush and bustle for 15 precious days and focussed on what really mattered. Growth; within, and of this nation.

Yaaron Chalo! Jai Hind
TO A TRAIN

Author - Rudraksh

I’ve stepped on a train.
It’s the same blue coach with the same blue finishing. There is a crowd. There is noise.
And yet, it’s not the same train that I got off from this morning.
A train I said goodbye to.
It can’t be

No train would ever be the same.
The meaning of a train has been changed forever.
To a train that gave me memories for a lifetime, I bid adieu.
To a train that gave me friends I could never have met and friends I can’t bear not to meet.
To a train that gave me dreams, and always talked about how to fulfil them.
To a train that introduced me to an India hid behind the dust of GDP and smoke of modernism.
To a train that showed how lives were dedicated to helping a struggling nation soar.

To a train that woke me up
And then held me as I slept, cajoled me as I was fed.
To a train that laughed in my happiest moments, danced in my celebrations and sang in my joy
To a train that taught me how to learn, that taught me the meaning of brotherhood
To a train that embodied collaboration and taught me the meaning of kinship
To a train that was more than just a train
To a taxi that might well be the story of our lives
To a train that made me richer: by a lifetime of friends and tons worth of moments,
To a year that will shine like the North Star in the dusk of our lives

I say,
Thank You,
It’s been an amazing ride.
I hope we’ll all meet again.
To nurture memories that we shall cherish in the afterglow of our youth.

Thank you.
For everything.
That feel when you sip a hot cup of soup while chilled air is hitting your body from the train window and those conversations you had with your co-yatri’s in the cohort which let you laugh like a crazy maniac, one thing you’ve forgotten long ago by encapsulated in an artificial environment!

That abundance of love you get from the fellow yatris where you profoundly feel that train compartment is your home for 15 days!

That platform where you let your voice out with your ideas and life stories along with the beautifully crafted anthem “yaaron chalo badalne ki rut hain yaaron chalo savarne ki rut hain”

That beats of morning alarm song at 6 am all over the train while you are trying to cover your head under crumpled bed sheet!

That long queue in the bathing compartment which reminisces the days of your childhood.

That warmth of the sun beating down on your neck from the window and that weird yet fascinating sound of chirping birds and running wheels of the train in this hustle bustle world is quite overwhelming..isn’t it..

Siri

Silence. The only time it was found during this trip was when Ashutosh called for minutes of it. If it was not the sound of restless ideas, violent “mafias”, dancing drums, “yatris please wake up” or any of the other uniquely Jagrit sounds then it was the crass whisper of the rails that functioned as the soundtrack for the Yatra.

Mornings on the train were always fun, I don’t think there was a single day where I didn’t hit my head on the ceiling. That seems to work as a better method for waking up than any alarm clock. The relentless caterers were always ready with a hot breakfast before we even brushed our teeth (if we brushed that is). Seeing everyone soak up the chutney always reminded me of how porous we are, soaking up any bits of information we can; eager to learn and expand our horizons. Learning aside, the food was extremely impressive. The caterers did a wonderful job of never keeping us hungry and spoiling us with a plethora of vegetarian food.

Evenings varied. Some nights we had dance parties with our little red light and one other we lay on top of each other like walruses recuperating from a long day’s work. Often torn between not attending a chair car session or getting to know the people in bogie X/Y. As the days go by the new faces seem familiar and the names start to blend. Squeezing between two people while trying to make it through the flexible walkways.

Where were we showering you ask? In the creatively engineered bathing bogie, plastic boards and zip up cloths created the borders while buckets and mugs served as the spouts. Showers were quite an ordeal but the communal atmosphere always made it enjoyable. I never knew that I needed only half a bucket to shower, this was a new kind of living.

Some nights got cold, really cold. If wrap me up like a burrito in my blankets but it would still get to your bones. The cold never came alone though, it always brought with it stuffy noses and loud snores. An orchestra of respiration filled the cabins at night, the nights chill conducting our breath.

Through the Yatra, you feel many things, hot and cold, tired and energetic, clean and dirty, but you never feel alone. On the days you can’t walk you will be pushed and on the days you have the gumption to develop India you will be offered opportunity. People on the train have come from all over, but we are all travelling in the same direction on the same tracks- to a better India.
Ya eshu supteshu Jagriti
Author - CA Karan

Being a qualified CA, our motto song goes by:
"Ya eshu supteshu Jagriti"...... Which means the one who is awake amongst the asleep. So I always felt that I had the license to be called Awake, but post being A JY 2018 Yatri, and meeting the most incredible part of this yatra - "THE YATRIS", given their exceptionally diversified backgrounds and the humongous steps that they have taken at this tender age, I feel I need to wake up and also my aforesaid License should be REVOKED.!
Side! Side! Side!
Yeh garam hai,
Hot tea en route,
"Get out of the way", he says.

Yet another side of Yatra,
Heroes at work 24/7,
Making upma, poori and sweets.

I have been a management student but the management of our catering team in Jagriti Yatra puts me in awe. With an army of 16 soldiers they fight with the hunger and taste buds of 500 yatriis every day. Their struggles and challenges are no less than yatriis. Waking up at wee hours of morning, cooks start preparing for tea/coffee and breakfast. Not just the cooks but even the servers sleep at 1 or 2 every night and wake up at 4 or 5 so that we can gear up for our day with a wakeup call that is accompanied by a steaming cup of tea/coffee. Giving us a flavor of every place we visit, they try to incorporate at least one local delicacy in our meals. We get ready, have our breakfasts and leave for the role model sites but our catering team doesn’t get done yet. They clean utensils, prepare for lunch, load the food truck and reach the same site to provide us lunch with hot rotis/puris.

They also set up a temporary kitchen at these sites to make our lunch fresh and tasteful. Exhausted and drained, when we return to the station, a very yummy snack awaits us with hot beverages as our refreshment. It reminds me of home. Like when I come home after classes in the evening, mom is ready with my cup of tea and snack so I can feel refreshed. and sometimes, when we have long sessions at role model sites even these refreshments are served on the site.

Every day before dinner a new variety of soup is served as an appetizer. Be it tomato soup with bread crumbs or man chow soup with noodles they never fail to surprise us. The thing that amazes me the most is the standardization of their quality and taste in a moving train and that too for 15 days. Dinner is served with salad, papad, dal, rice, roti, sabji and a sweet dish. The best part is you get to taste from gajar ka halwa to Balushahi and that too with lots of love. I think more than the menu it’s about the way food is served on this train. Even after having very less amount of sleep, all servers are in fun mood. They keep asking “khana kaisa hai?” and keep insisting you to take some more. What makes me think is the smile on their faces, the calm amidst all the chaos, their fun remarks to take some more sweet dish. Even after sleeping later than us they come to serve tea in the morning so fresh and help us in waking up. This team is not less than a role model.

Planning for everyday meals, coordination to serve properly in all the schools, the organization of kitchen etc. all the management aspects are beautifully implemented by this team.

Kudos to our internal behind the veil heroes.
Ashutosh Kumar  Executive Director

Exceptionally bright and dedicated to the vision of Enterprise-led-development, Ashutosh joined Jagriti in 2008 in the founding year. He was an integral part of the team, playing the role of Executive Director from 2012 till 2015. He now advises the executive team in strategy. An IIT Kharagpur alumnus, he is a theatre enthusiast and has also made several short films.

Ashutosh brings great creativity and humour to the team. He has led Jagriti Yatra successfully for the last 4 years.

Vaishali Maind  Director, Selections and Programming

Vaishali is an entrepreneur at heart. Her dynamism and ability to engage with youth makes her crucial to the vision of the Jagriti team. Vaishali brings expertise from the education sector and has been a part of the core team since 2008.

Pankaj Mane  Manager Operations and Administration

Pankaj has completed his MCA from Pune University. He has previously worked as Software developer and team leader. He is a District Community Service Director of Rotaract Pune. Pankaj is passionate about body building, personal health and wellness.
THE EXECUTIVE TEAM

Lalitha Prakash Manager Fundraising
Veteran in Pharma sector with more than 20 years of experience. Successfully accomplished setting up Animal health division in Africa and South East Asia. Currently working with Jagriti as fund raiser.

Pranaadhika Sinha Devburman Lead, Media & Communications
Pranaadhika’s journey with Jagriti began when she joined as one of the Yatra’s youngest Facilitators in 2009. She returned as a Facilitator for the 10th Anniversary Yatra, and then as an ERC handling social media in 2018. She has joined the executive team and is leading Media and Communications. She is regularly featured in print and television media and brings with her, 21 years of experience in the social development field. Her love for design, debate, and development promise to elevate Brand Jagriti to new heights.

Pragati Baheti Alumni Engagement Manager
Pragati is a MBA in Finance and IT. Post-internship with ABG she worked with the channel partner of Alibaba and as a key member of the Strategy and Planning team of an E-commerce startup. She has contributed towards the expansion of her father’s business to get it to reach new heights. Having an interest in writing she writes a blog “thesilentvibrations.blogspot.com” focusing on unsaid feelings. With her keen entrepreneurial mindset and quick learning attitude, she is fond of Indian handicrafts, travelling and Ayurveda.
The Jagriti Yatra Board comprises of international experienced professionals with high calibre who define the ethos of Jagriti Yatra.

**Sharat Bansal** Chairman

Sharat Bansal has been a Partner, Management Consulting Leader, Advisory Leaders, Global Relationship Partner and member of PwC’s India Leadership Team. In PwC, he established several new practices like Strategy, Supply chain and Operations, Customer Relationship Management Human Capital Management. Sharat also led IBM Global Business Services in India for five years.

**Balu Nayar** Board Member

Balu is a Co-Founder of NextGen Telesolutions Pvt Ltd. He was the Managing Director and Head of Morpheus Team at Morpheus Capital Advisors. He founded Morpheus in 2009. He has over 19 years of experience spanning media, marketing and business development. Prior to joining Morpheus Capital Advisors as Managing Director, Mr. Nayar was a Managing Director of IMG India. He was earlier associated with Yahoo as a Regional Director for Yahoo’s Connected Life businesses across India, South-East Asia and Australia, after a stint as the Business Development Director for the APAC region.
Raj Krishnamurthy Board Member

Raj is a thinker, leader and an innovator. He has worked for several multinationals including Applied Materials, BOC Group and UTC. He is the founder of a digital consultancy in London - Enria Limited. He currently works for Rentokil-Initial as their Innovations Director and is passionate about supporting startups. Raj is the architect of Biz Gyan Tree, the business plan competition in the Yatra and credited with several other creative excesses. He has a Bachelors from IIT Bombay, MS from Purdue University and an MBA from Santa Clara University.

Rewati Prabhu Board Member

Rewati has worked for over 15 years as an urban designer in the USA, Europe, Africa and India. A gold medallist B.Arch graduate from Pune University and a fellowship awardee in her Masters in Urban Planning from University of Michigan, USA, she is a Director of Frischmann Prabhu India, a 400 strong multidisciplinary design consultancy based in Mumbai. Rewati has led several award-winning development projects and is passionate about urban regeneration in India.
Surendra Sharma  Board Member
An alumnus of IIT Kharagpur, he is an ex-technocrat and consultant from the Nuclear Energy field. Interested in social welfare and nation building activity, he is closely associated with Jagriti Yatra and is contributing to its success from the very inception in 1997.

Vanita Viswanath  Board Member
Vanita conceptualized and led Udyogini, an NGO based in Delhi. She is Founding Trustee and currently Chairperson of Aajeevika Bureau. She was previously with the World Bank, Washington D.C in various positions, including as co-director of a four-year Women's Enterprise Management Training program operational in three Asian countries. She also authored the first policy document on the Asian Development Bank's collaboration with NGOs. She has published widely lectured in leading US universities such as Yale and Columbia and presented papers in conferences worldwide, most recently at the Sixth Subsistence Marketplaces conference at the School of Business, University of Illinois, Urbana Champaign, USA. She was recognized as a finalist of the Schwab Foundation
GAURI SHARMA TRIPATHI

Gauri Sharma Tripathi is associated with Jagriti Yatra since its inception. She has done the choreography for Jagriti Geet that beautifully reflects Prasoon's lyrics and which Yatris perform all together. Gauri is an exponent of the north Indian classical dance form of Kathak. She has learnt from her guru and mother Smt Padma Sharma. Her first steps in this form were taught by Guru Lacchu Maharaj. Gauri has also studied folk dance styles in India; incorporating other dance influences within her classical framework. She has won critical acclaim in various dance festivals in India and abroad. She has appeared as a choreographer and performer in Munich Biennale, Royal Festival Hall, Millennium Dome, Alchemy to name a few.

SUBHEDAR RAMESHWAR SINGH CHAHAR

He is retired Subhedar from Indian army, passionate about helping others with his down to earth attitude. This year he is completing 12 yatras which includes first Yatra of 1997 - Azad Bharat Rail Yatra.
Arzoo Shakir  
Aseem Shendye  
Asha M  
Ashish Godya  
Ashish Sahuji  
Ashutosh Sharma  
Ashwani Pandey  
Ashwini Nair  
Asta Sangal  
Avani Tavargeri  
Ayush Gandhi  
Ayush Kanoria  
Ayushi Mittal  
Beena Gupta  
Bhagyashree Balapure  
Bharat Aggarwal  
Bharat Bommeta  
Bhargav Thakkar  
Bhavana Salvi  
Bhavya Gorji  
Bhoya V Sureshbhai  
Sureshbhai  
Boryana Dzhivdzhanova  
Brien Rodrigues  
Chadrrakalee Markam  
Chanda Devi  
Chanesh Babu  
Chinmay Mahajan  
Chinmaya Dhiman  
Chirag Mahawar  
Chirra J Reddy  
Deep Kulkarni  
Deepak Babar  
Deepak Malani  
Deepali Barapatre  

Deepanjali Srivastava  
Deepanshu Rathee  
Devang Kusumgar  
Devanshu Rastogi  
Dewanshi Patil  
Dhananjay Suthar  
Dhanashri Virkar  
Dhriti Dey  
Dileep Kumar Sakkimsetti  
Dinesh Kumar Mandavi  
Dinh-long Pham  
Diptiman Chowdhury  
Disha Unadkat  
Divyanshu Raj  
Divyasha Arora  
Dori Lal  
Drishti Kahnani  
Ekashmi Rathore  
Elluru Anurag  
Fatema Attar  
Fatima Rathod  
Ganesh Chappalwar  
Gargi Sachdev  
Garima Shukla  
Gaurav Kumar  
Gaurav Oswal  
Gazal Aggarwal  
Geeta Shelke  
Geetika Bagaria  
Ghanta Bhavana  
Gitanjali Pillai  
Gnyanee Kandukuri  
Gopalbhai Charaniya  
Gopinadh Tiyyagura  
Gopisairam Tanneeru  
Gourav Tayal
YATRIS OF 2018

Gyander Kumar
Hardik Sachdeva
Harrshini V B
Harsha N Poloju
Harshad Munshettiwar
Harshala Jambhulkar
Harshil Bhadra
Harshit Brahmvanshi
Harshvardhan Shukla
Harshveer Shrimal
Havyas K S
Hemant Agarwal
Hemanth Kumar V
Hercules Munda
Himanshu Shekhar
Hitesh Agarwal
Hrishikesh Topale
Imtiyaz Ansari
Ishan Jhunjhunwala
Jabir Karat
Jahan Zaveri
Jainam Gandhi
Jasdeep Singh
Jatin Gulia
Jayasree Racha
Jeet Patel
Jeetendra Ajmera
Jefin Thachil
Jitendra Karji
Jose Tom
jolly
Josephine Bouchez
Justine Lerche
Jyotish Chaudhari
Kalyani Tidke
Kamlaben Damor
Kamlawati Devi

Kanaga V
Kanhaiya Ningwal
Karan Singh Chhabra
Kaartik Aggarwal
Kartik Agarwal
Kartikay Kumar
Kasif Iqbal
Kaushal Ladhad
Kavit Shah
Kavita Nag
Kedarnath Pandugayula
Keerthana Kumares
Keerthi Chandana
Keshav Bagla
Kherunnisha Fakir
Khushbu Kumari
Kiran Kava
Krishna Jaisawal
Krishna K Venkata
Kumar Akhil
Kumari Komal
Kunal Bhatia
Kushal Pancholi
Lalit Kumar Yadu
Lalit Rathi
Laura Tschümperlin
Lola Jutta
M.s.shree Harini
Madhuri Bandla
Madhusmita Majhi
Madhusudhan Naik
Mahima Chawla
Mamta Priyanka Lugun
Manas Aggarwal
Manjunath Jamathi
YATRIS OF 2018

Prashanth Reddy
Pratap Singh
Pratyush Raj
Pravin Kale
Prerak Baheti
Prince Tiwari
Priyanka Karande
Priyanka Vaidya
Priyanka Yadav
Priyanshi Goyal
Priyanshu Goyal
Purvika Kejriwal
Pushkar Tripathi
Rachana Nakil
Rachit Mehta
Radhika Gupta
Radhika Kishore
Radhika Mohta
Rahol Rajan
Rahul Kumar
Rahul Kumar
Rahul Marri
Rahul Merchant
Rahul Rahangdale
Rahul Tiwari
Raj Shah
Rajat Raghatwan
Rajdip Roy
Rajesh Velpandian
Rajiv Jha
Raju Jat
Rammohan Gunapati
Ramo Soren
Ramya Balakrishna
Ranadheer Reddy
Ranjeet Mishra
Rashida Husaini
Rashmi Raja V.r
Ravi Motwani
Ravi Surana
Ravineet Yadav
Renuka Anand
Retul Pillai
Rishabh Gupta
Rishabh Shetty
Rohit Kumar
Roy Keshav Sharma
Rudraj Mehta
Rudraksh Pathak
Rupali Londhe
Saanchi Marwaha
Sagar Shinde
Sahithya Sreenath
Sai Phani Raghupatrungi
Sakshi Banjhal
Samarth Pai T
Samir Mody
Sampath Reddy
Sampreet Gupta
Samveg Singhi
Sandeep Mishra
Sanika Godse
Sanjana Barthakur
Sanjeevan M
Sanket Oswal
Santosh Kumar
Manusannipally
Sarang Raghatate
Sarthak Chhabra
Sarthak Garkhel
Sarthak Sharma
Satendra Singh
Saumitra Khanwalker
Seema Jaiswal
Shahin Bano
Shaikh Mohammad Irfan
Shambhav Shandilya
Shardul Nanivadekar
Shaunak Handa
Sheela Kanwar
Sheetal Jagtap
Shilpi Singh
Shivam Sahu
Shivani Reddy
Shraddha Bagul
Shravan Mantri
Shravani M
Shreyas Ugemuge
Shria Goel
Shruti Mishra
Shruti Rudrawar
Shubham Agarwal
Shubham Gaba
Shubham Naik
Shubhi Singh
Siddhant Prabhu
Sima Dahale
Sindhuja Penumarty
Siripuram Sagar Krishna
Sririsha Velugula
Sishir Suresh Mohammed
Siya Marathe
Sneha B
Snehal Borle
Snehal Naik
Snehal Pawar
Snehith Budime
Somshekhar Badkar
Sona Chand
Sonali Bhusare
Sony Joy
Sourabh
Sourabh Maheshwary
Sreshtha Jupudi
Srishti Chawla
Sriya Musunuru
Subhash Budati
Sudarshan Sawra
Sudhir Jain
Sumanti Devi
Sunaina Srivastava
Surbhi Jain
Surya Teja Kollipara
Sushmitha Yadav
Swapnil Bagchi
Swathi R S
Tanmay Sharma
Tanvi Sinha
Tanya Thourani
Tarif Abbas
Tarini Dalal
Tarun Chand
Taufique Ali
Thajudeen Aboobaker
Trisha Reddy
Ushaben D Vasava
Utkarsh Baru
Utsav Agrawal
Vaidehi Mittal
Vani Khanna
Varsha Rahase
Varshit Ratna
Varun Behani
Vasundhara Arya
Vattikonda Jagadeesh
Vedika Padwal
Vendhan Psd
Vignan Kintukuri
Vikas Chaparwal
Vikas Singh
Vishal Kapoor
Vishesh Harnal
Vishnupriya Gundreddy
Vishram Puri
Vivek Kayande
Vivek Singh
Waras Singh
Yash Jalan
Zachary Wolff
Zarnain Fatima
Zhong Han Lee
BATCH OF 2018
JAGRITI YATRA