

## Samvidhan LIVE! Be A Jagrik

**National Celebration Event of Be A Jagrik - Samvidhan LIVE...Live the SDG public initiative by ComMutiny - The Youth Collective**

Commutiny- the Youth Collective organised a National Celebration Event - Samvidhan LIVE- Be A Jagrik in collaboration with Pravah on 26 February 2019. The event organised in Delhi celebrated the journey of Jagriks from all across the country. The congregation was attended by representatives from various funding organisations, constitutional experts, civil society representatives and academics who engaged in a conversation on how to understand the inequality as it exists in society and how understanding constitutional values can strengthen and promote the values of equality, liberty and fraternity better.



The students from Deshbandhu College, MUIT and Tech Mahindra along with young people from organisations like Pahel, Sakhsham, Matri Sudha and LECIN were a part of the event which had an eclectic mix of conversations, film screenings, games, sharing of experiences by Jagriks and the reflection and impact of the current journey. The evening culminated with a mesmerising musical performance by Sonam Kalra and the Sufi Gospel Project.

**WALK WITH US:** At the event, a gallery walk was setup to showcase the journey undertaken by ‘Jagriks’ across the country. This also provided a space of reflection, understanding and sharing of their personal stories. The gallery started with big picture of the initiative then led into state wise representation ending at a learning wall. The learning wall was the space for audience, as they were encouraged to engage with Jagriks through spot tasks cards that were provided to them at the registration counter.

***“Urja Ghar came to our school because of this initiative and it has really helped us to engage more deeply with the Constitution. While preparing for this gallery, we had to keep going back to the tasks we have done and reflect further on our experience and how do we want to continue learning this.”***

- Muhammad Sahil, Jagrik, Urja Ghar – Gujarat



## STORIES OF CHANGE FROM JAGRIKS ACROSS THE COUNTRY

### Jagrik Rajkumari, Synergy, Madhya Pradesh

The caste system has been a part of the social fabric of the Indian society for many centuries and still governs different aspects of people’s lives such as access to the places of worship, who can we choose to marry, who are the people with whom we can share food etc. Rajkumari comes from a small village called Dhurgada, 15 Kms from Harda in Madhya Pradesh where the discrimination on the basis of caste is prevalent. Since, she belongs to a ‘lower caste’ community; she has also faced this discrimination. After becoming a part of the initiative, Rajkumari found ways of challenging the existing norms.

“As a Jagrik, one of my tasks was to visit various places of worship and understand different cultural and religious norms. As someone belonging to a ‘lower caste’, I was not allowed to enter one of the temples in my village and had always wanted to challenge this as I felt that discrimination in any form cannot be justified. I decided to visit the temple and was questioned by the priest there and was not allowed but I wanted to still challenge the norm so I entered the temple at the time when the priest was not there. When other people in the village found out, I had to face a backlash but I was determined to continue to challenge the practice and I feel that ‘Be a Jagrik’ is a great medium of doing that as the initiative has helped me to find a community where I can discuss my own issues and find support.”



### Jagrik Sumant, Rubaroo, Telangana

Sumant’s dream is to become an entrepreneur and contribute towards improving the education system. One of his Jagrik tasks was to suggest changes in the curriculum in order to make subjects easier for students. Sumant designed 10 activities and submitted them to a school for minority communities. For instance, the students had to take a walk around their school playground and think of 2 objects whose names they don’t know in English. Once the students came back, the names of those objects were discussed. He has planned similar activities to make learning more fun and hopes to keep bringing positive changes in the society through innovation.



“Be a Jagrik helped me to not just know the text of our Constitution but to ‘live’ it and it has made me realise the value of ‘experiential learning’. I want to become an entrepreneur and the experience has helped me realise that there are different ways to learn things and I want to be able to experiment with that.”

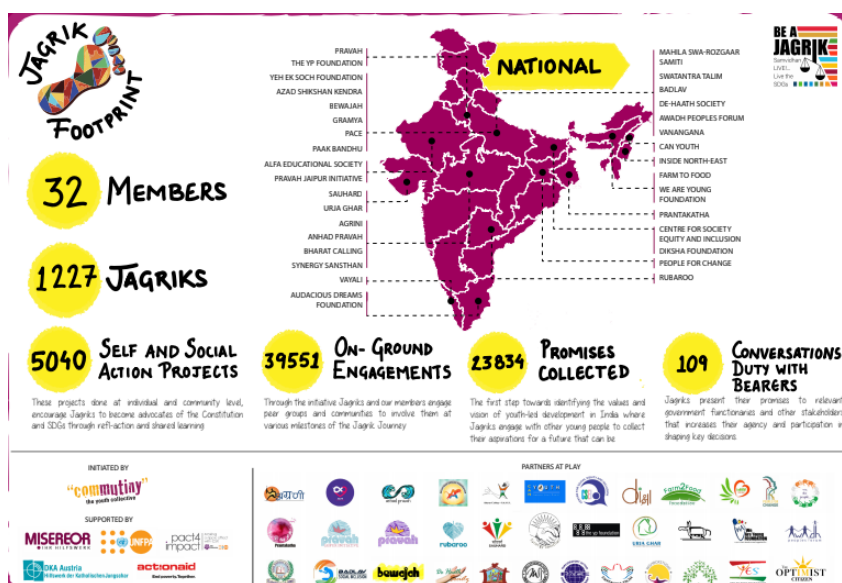
**Jagrik Nupur, Prantakatha, West Bengal**

Nupur feels that the right to equality is indispensable in the society and must not be compromised in any situation. One of her tasks was to take a poor person to a restaurant and she faced many challenges during this task, but she continued to persist as she feels that it is critical to accept people beyond the labels of class, caste, religion, gender etc. She finally found an old woman who agreed to be taken to a restaurant. The experience has had an indelible mark on Nupur as she understood how prejudices and stereotypes play a huge role in the society.

“When I took the lady to the restaurant, despite having paid the money, she was not treated well as she was visibly ‘poor’ which shows how much our stereotypes around money and status play out in our day to day life. I felt really bad about it and I intend on challenging more such social and economic norms in my community.”



**NATIONAL FOOT PRINT OF THE JAGRIK JOURNEY**



**EXPERTS TALK**

**Sandeep Chachra, Executive Director, ActionAid India**

Sandeep is a social anthropologist by training and has been working as a development activist for a long time. At the Jagrik Event, he raised the important issue of ‘neo-nationalism’ and it has impacted the political dynamics across the world. He traced the journey of last 70 years that began with the end of colonialism through freedom struggles across the eastern world and the emergence of the idea of a new ‘nation’. He linked this to the hegemonic politics that can be seen across the world today where the power is being centralised in the hands of a few.



***“In times when educational institutions are being attacked and there is an effort to remake the history, we must fight for contestation and plural ideas and need to build a ‘counter-hegemonic project.’”***

Justice Iqbal Ahmed Ansari, Chairperson, Punjab State Human Rights Commission

“A place where a person is not allowed to say ‘no’ cannot be called a republic”, said Justice Ansari. During his speech, he pointed out that there is a difference between a government and a nation and linked this to many current examples of how power and prejudice could be hindering the effective working of a democracy and ended by reiterating the importance to have a space for disagreement and dissent in a democracy.



***“There is a lot of difference between a nation and a government. A nation does not keep changing as per the government in power. The State does not have a personal interest, it stands in the interest of its people.”***

#### **DIFFERENT FLAVOURS AT THE EVENT**

Through the event facilitators also took the audience through a journey about power and privilege by asking a few questions that made the participants reflect on their own lives. The questions revolved around different aspects of a person’s life such as the family background they have had or the kind of education they have had access to.

This was followed by screening of a short film called ‘2 TR-YOUTHS’ was released. The animated film that has been directed by Neeraj Toor and has been written by Arjun Shekhar focuses on the growth story of India and the narratives build around Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and Human Development Index (HDI) and brings attention to the fact that the wealth that has been generated has not reached a large section of the society which leads to a greater economic gap.



The evening ended with a magical performance by Sonam Kalra and the Sufi Gospel Project. The performance brought light to the message of transcending boundaries and coming together as human beings to spread peace.

