



SKILL SE समृद्धि

COMPILATION OF INSPIRING INITIATIVES - MGNF PROGRAM AT IIM LUCKNOW



MIZORAM



UTTAR PRADESH



ASSAM



HIMACHAL PRADESH





INDIAN INSTITUTE OF MANAGEMENT LUCKNOW

Mahatma Gandhi National Fellowship (2021-23)



First Row (Left to Right): Anjali Sharma, Suruchi Singh, Nidhi Bariha, Arnavi Sagar, Neesha Kshetry, Sukanya Devi, Shivani Kaushal, Anusua Das, Vaishali Thakur, Deepali Raina, Program Manager - MGNF, Prof. Kshitij Awasthi, Program Director - MGNF, Prof. Ajay K Garg, Dean (Faculty) and Program Director - MGNF, Prof. Archana Shukla, Director, IIM Lucknow, Prof. Vikas Srivastava, Dean (Programmes), Nancy Thakur, State Resource Associate, Shafaq Azmi, State Resource Associate, Lakhipriya Dihingia, Atlanta Borah, Poulamee Dey, Nayanika Nath, Madhukrishna Bhuyan, Pallavi Dhiman, Gayatri Khurana, Lalremtluangi, Pooja, Chetna Singhania, Saumya Singh, Megha yadav, Ragini Mall

Second Row (Left to Right): Navendu Sharma, Viddyansh Srivastava, Ashutosh Tripathi, Sudhanshu, Divy Sharma, Rashi Giri, Amisha Yadav, Bhawna Das, Satabdi Saikia, Anushka Vijayvergiya, Sharna Chakraborty, Karabi Borah, Dharitri Borgohain, Himadri Nath, Anuradha Nirwan, Mampi Dey, Pratyashree Bora, Aparajita, Niharika Das, Sai Tejaswini T, Prannav Dutta, Kshitij Kumar, Shitanshu Kumar, Utkarsh Shukla, Abhilash Yadav, Pravin Kumar Singh, Abhishek Keshri, Aditya, Vibhor Shukla, Shubham Kumar Mishra

Third Row (Left to Right): Darpan Chib, Rahul Yadav, Ashish Gupta, Shubham Jaiswal, Manish Kumar, Ranjan Sahani, Virendra Kumar, Ashish Kumar Yadav, Mohit Singh, Tarang Bharti, Arun Jyoti, Suneel Baryan, Saikot Sukla, Devdarshan Chetia, Abhishek Pal, Pritam Das, Indrajeet Kumar, Nitendra Singh, Manish Kumar Gupta, Pushpank Tripathi, Ajinkya Jaywant Madkaikar, Vikas Walke, Atul Kumar, Amlan Chetia, Ashish Kumar, Mahesh Mishra, Samarth Sharma, Ambikesh

Fourth Row (Left to Right): Aman Awasthi, Nikhil Pralhad Jagnade, Tanmay Dhawan, Jitendra Kumar, Dipu Saikia, Isha Bhattacharyya, Sudarshan Protim Sonowal, Jasbir Singh, Chinmoy Deka, Mohit Rajput, Satwinder Singh Bhinder, Sumit Raha, Anand Boipai, Sankalp Tripathi, Gaurav Verma, Mohammad Wasiuddin, Rahul Kumar, Diwakar Singh Tanwar, Divyanshu Sharma, Sudhanshu Gangwar, Gopal Jee, Ashish Kumar, Shubham Singh Rawat, Nabajit Dutta

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MESSAGE FROM DIRECTOR

Over the past two years, the implementation of the MGNF Program at IIM Lucknow has led to some remarkable and unique initiatives on the ground and is fostering a sustained dialogue on skill development across various levels. The program's design supported a bottom-up approach to planning, making this fellowship a highly effective link between the policy framework and the implementation of programs on the ground.

We take pride in our fellows and deeply appreciate the dedication each of them has displayed throughout the program. While there are numerous inspiring initiatives within the program, "*Skill se Samriddhi*" is an endeavor to recognize and appreciate some of these initiatives. I am confident that this compilation will bring in some fresh perspectives on the diversity of programs initiated on the ground.

I extend my heartfelt congratulations to everyone involved in the program and special appreciation to the team involved in this compilation.

I congratulate all our fellows on the successful completion of the program and wish them the best as they embark on their next journey as well-prepared change leaders, poised to usher in the much-needed transformative changes at different levels in our country.



Prof. Archana Shukla
Director, IIM Lucknow

MESSAGE FROM PROGRAM DIRECTORS

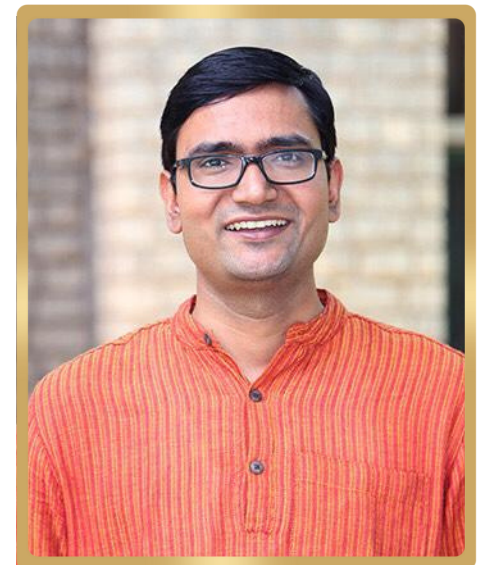
‘Skill se Samriddhi’, as the name itself suggests, symbolically takes us through the complete journey of the MGNF program and the holistic approach that was followed to facilitate the overall development of our fellows. While the impact of these endeavors is evident in district-level initiatives, it is also reflected in the individual growth of our fellows as young changemakers. We are proud of our diverse cohort of fellows, including 3I-Assam, 5I-UP, 1I-HP, and 1I-Mizoram, for successfully completing this unique program and catalyzing some of the most promising changes on the ground. This compilation serves as a token to recognize some of the unique efforts. The diversity of initiatives captured in this compilation is worth appreciating.

We appreciate and acknowledge the support of various stakeholders, like State Skill Development Missions (SSDMs), District Administration, NIMI, and the MGNF Team at IIM Lucknow, for their collaborative support in the program. We are also thankful to our diverse set of speakers from industries who complemented the academic learning of the fellows with much-needed insights from the practitioners. We hope that while going through this compilation, you will resonate with the positive impact that has been created on the ground and the underlying effort put in by everyone in the program.

The successful completion of the MGNF program at IIM Lucknow marks a significant milestone and reaffirms our commitment to work towards sustainable social and economic development. We look forward to continuing our work on similar initiatives in the future.



Prof. Ajay Garg

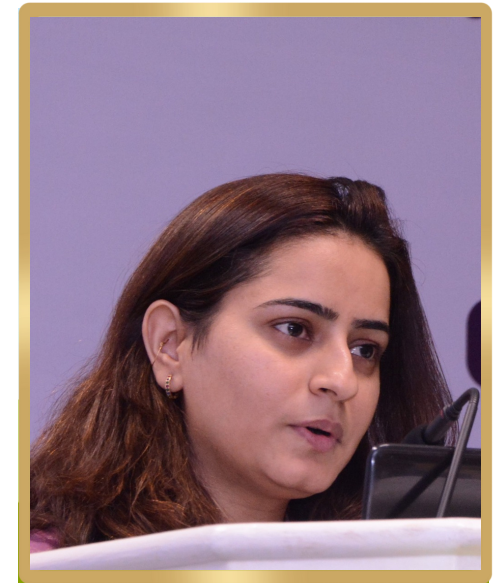


Prof. Kshitij Awasthi

MESSAGE FROM PROGRAM MANAGER

“Skill se Samriddhi” beautifully encapsulates the ethos of collaboration, synergy, and convergence that have been the guiding principles of IIM Lucknow's role as the largest academic partner in the MGNF Program.

Keeping the learning and development of fellows at the center of all our efforts, the Institute took some first-of-its kind initiatives in the program in alignment with the overall vision and mandate. Faculty mentor support, facilitating collaborations with various organizations, and mental health well-being are some of the areas that we consciously worked on to ensure the best learning experience for fellows.



Ms. Deepali Raina

Taking regular feedback from various stakeholders and incorporating necessary course corrections has been instrumental in adapting the program to meet evolving requirements. This adaptability in our approach has been instrumental in shaping some of the unique programs on the ground. This moment also presents an opportunity for us to express gratitude not only to our dedicated fellows, who are at the heart of our program, but also to our own program team and the collaborators who have steadfastly supported the effective implementation of this initiative. “Skill se Samriddhi” serves as a testament to our appreciation and respect for the indomitable spirit of each one of the fellows involved in bringing about the some of the most inspiring changes on the ground.

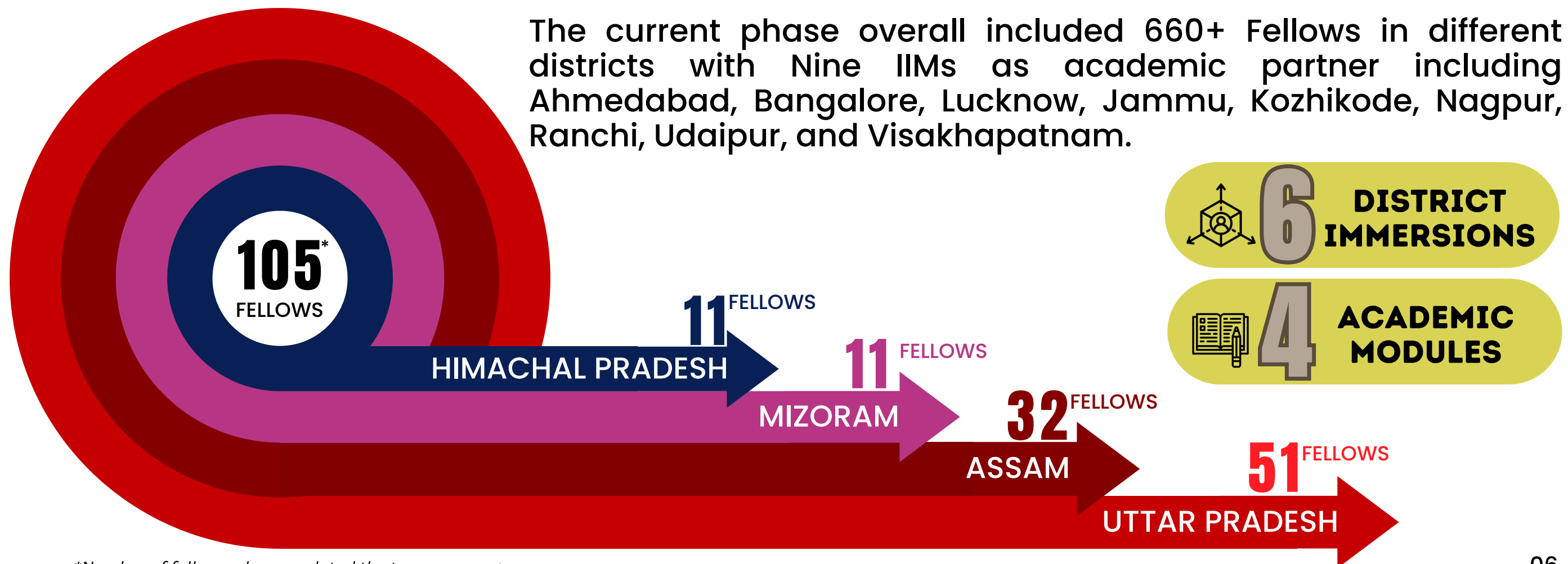
Once again, thank you for your support, and we hope you will thoroughly enjoy reading this special compilation!

BRIEF OF THE PROGRAM

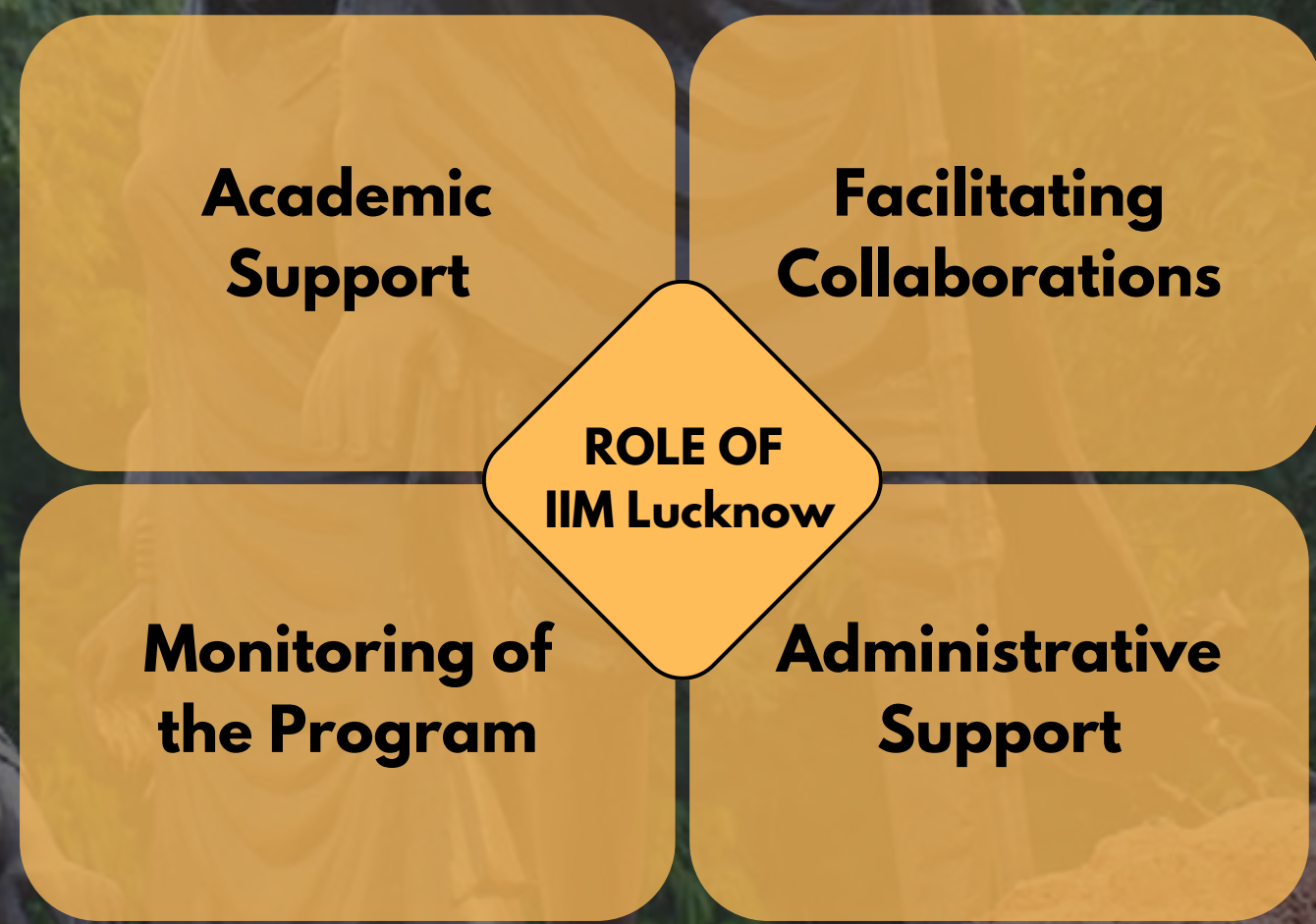
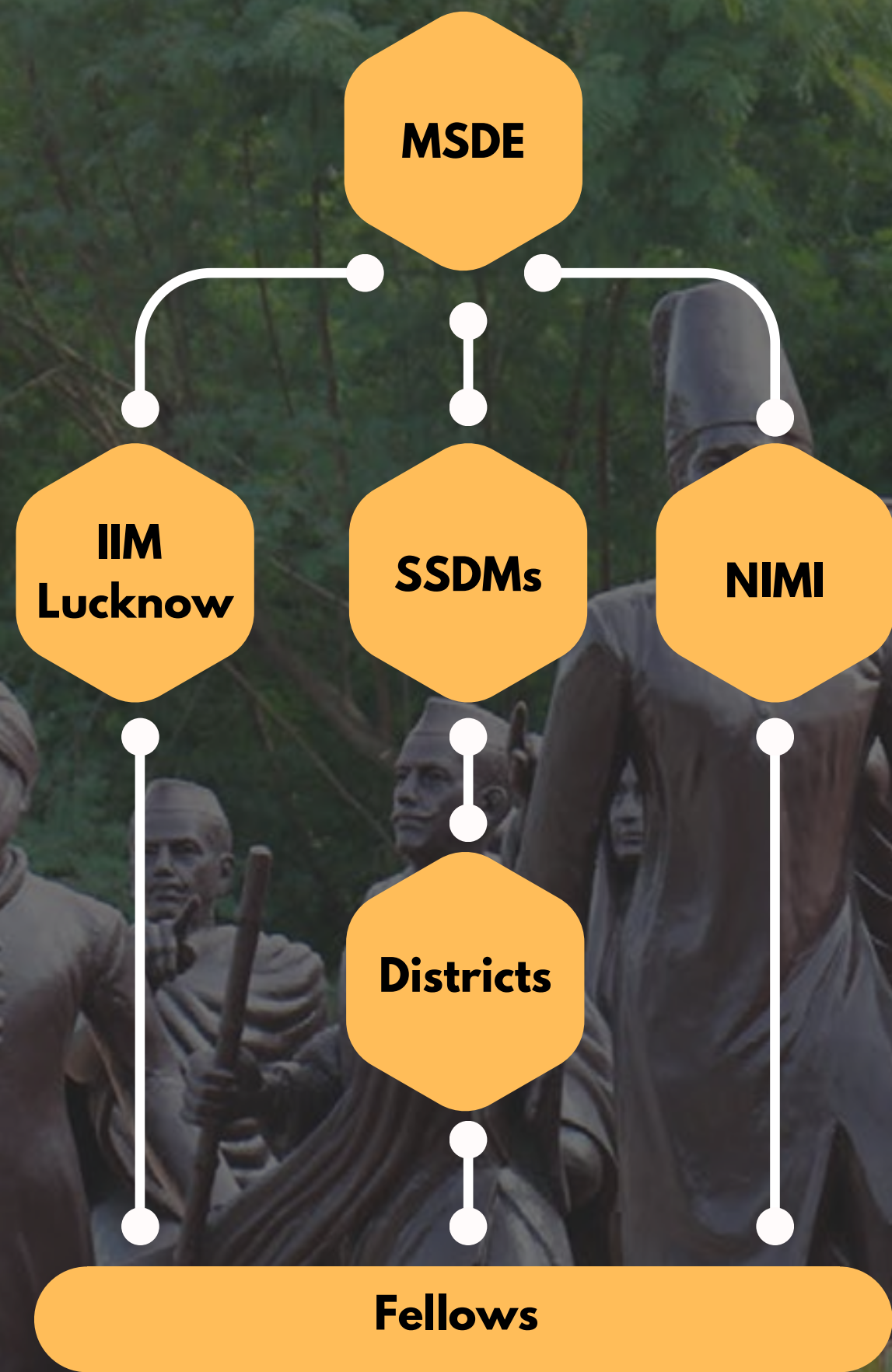
Mahatma Gandhi National Fellowship (MGNF) is a flagship program by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE). The current phase of the program was done in collaboration with nine IIMs as academic partners. IIM Lucknow was the largest academic partner with four States Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Mizoram, and Assam.

It was a two-year certificate program in public policy and management. It was blended program with well-designed academic & field immersion components. The objective of the program was to strengthen the district skill landscape of the country through the effective and collaborative engagement of Fellows. By the end of the program the District Skill Committees must function as an effective organization being able to plan, implement and monitor skill development initiatives. MGN Fellowship aimed to create a cadre of individuals who can contribute to the strengthening of the district-led skill ecosystem.

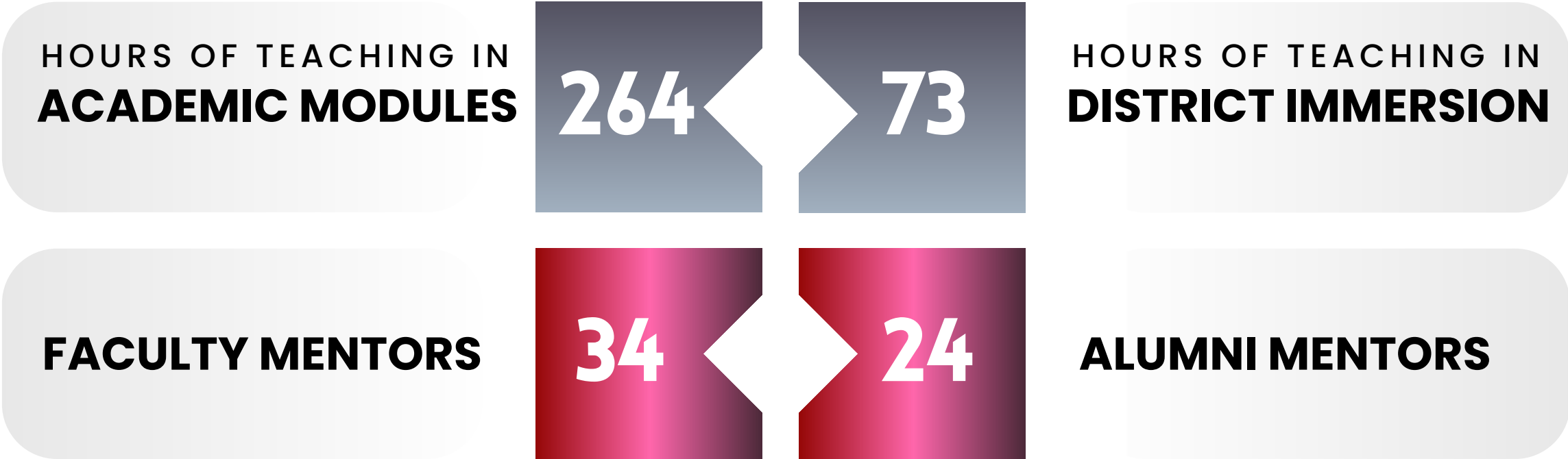
The current phase overall included 660+ Fellows in different districts with Nine IIMs as academic partner including Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Lucknow, Jammu, Kozhikode, Nagpur, Ranchi, Udaipur, and Visakhapatnam.



STAKEHOLDERS OF PROGRAM



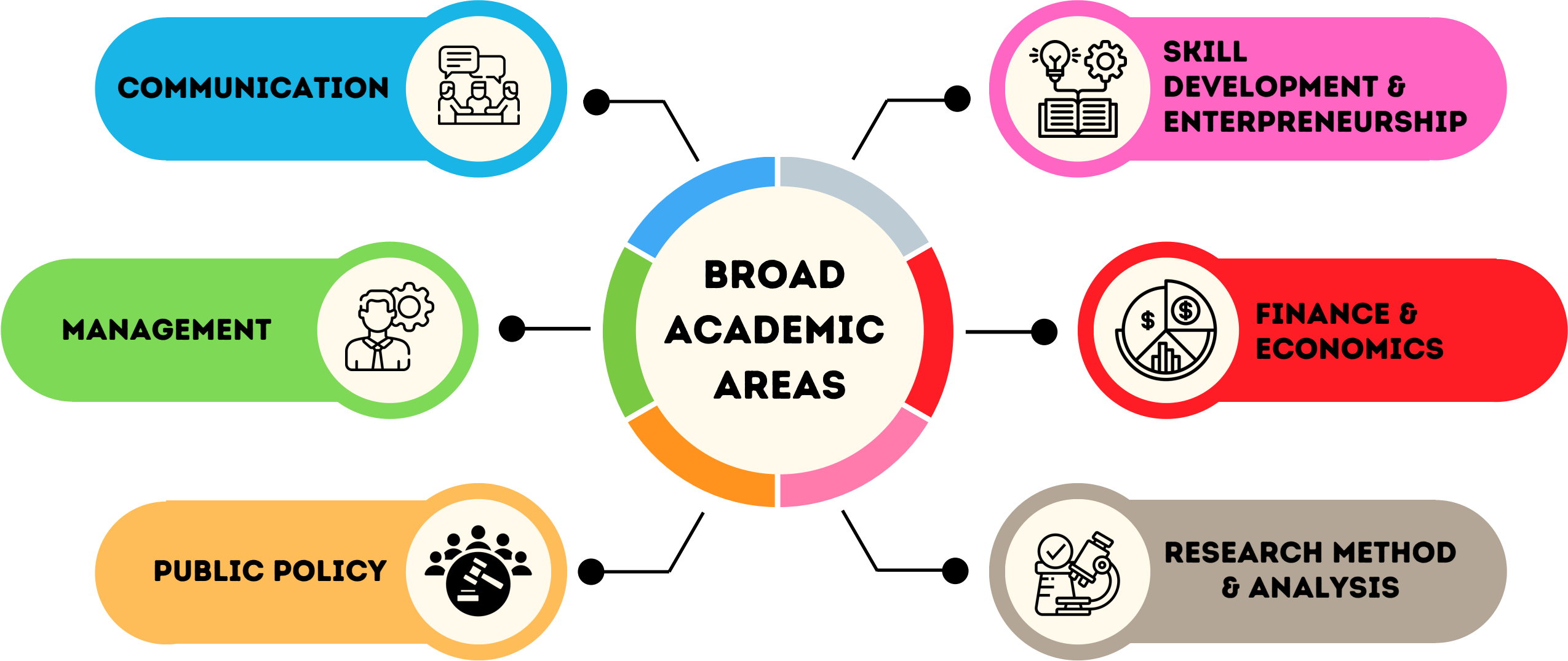
ACADEMIC MENTORING



SOME GUEST SPEAKERS



BROAD ACADEMIC AREAS



SPECIFIC TOPICS COVERED

 INDUSTRY ENGAGEMENT	 DESIGN THINKING	 STRATEGIZING ACTION PLANS	 GOOD GOVERNANCE	 DATA VISUALIZATION	 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT	 RESEARCH METHODS
 THESIS WRITING	 IMPACT EVALUATION	 DISTRICT SKILL DEVELOPMENT	 MENTAL WELL-BEING	 FINANCE	 PUBLIC POLICY	 YOUTH ENGAGEMENT
 UN APPROACHES	 APPRENTICE- SHIP	 QUALITY ASSURANCE	 PROJECT MANAGEMENT ESSENTIALS	 NATIONAL EDUCATION POLICY	 STANDARDIZATION OF TRADITIONAL CRAFTS	 INCLUSION

FACULTY MENTORS

To institutionalize continuous mentoring support to fellows beyond academic modules, Faculty mentors were onboarded for providing dedicated mentoring support to the fellows. The mentors besides evaluating the monthly submissions provided continuous academic support to fellows for various projects and build the capacity of fellows especially for drafting research proposals and thesis. Some faculty mentors also helped facilitating collaborations with relevant organizations as per the project being undertaken at the district level. Regular feedback was taken from faculty and fellows and if need be, course corrective measures were also taken to strengthen the faculty mentor and mentee engagement in alignment with the objectives of the program.



DIGITAL PROFILES

An easy to access and standardized profiles of fellows were uploaded on the IIM Lucknow website. It highlighted the brief profile of the fellows and the key initiatives being undertaken at the district level in a standard format.

MENTAL WELL-BEING

Mental health and stress management constituted an integral component of the program towards enabling holistic development of fellows. There were instances of anxiety and stress that some fellows shared in the initial few months of program. To address these in a specific manner and to work towards general well-being of fellows, IIM Lucknow took initiative to provide counselling support to the fellows through the onboarding of the YourDost platform. Sessions on mental health and counselling by experienced mental health practitioners had been an important component of all academic modules and district immersions.



CHAMPION FELLOWS

To incentivize and appreciate the good work done by fellows, the best performing fellows for a particular period were recognized as champion fellows in the newsletter, highlighting their projects and experiences on the ground.

KNOWLEDGE NETWORK

Six editions of Skillवार्ता, the quarterly newsletter of MGNF have been published so far. The first edition was launched by Prof. Archana Shukla, Director, IIM Lucknow on March 7, 2021. The content of the newsletter also evolved with each edition starting from encapsulating initiatives of the program, recognizing best performing fellows to addition of sections like experience sharing by SSDMs, faculty mentors and alumni mentors, traditional crafts from states and case studies from fellows. The section on champion fellows emerged as one of the important ways to encourage and incentivize better performing fellows with the sense of recognition and appreciation.

ACTION ORIENTED MONTHLY SUBMISSIONS

In alignment with the learning trajectory of the fellows and the evolving stage of the program monthly submissions of the fellows moved from purely academic submissions in the initial months of the program to more action-oriented reports as the program evolved. The topics ranged from demand mapping of job roles in the district, case studies, sustainability of programs to recommendation framework for strengthening the skill development landscape. Fellows have also shared that the topics for monthly submissions given by IIM Lucknow were relevant to their work at the district level and helped them in documenting the activities done and formulating the way forward.



BUDDY SYSTEM

A unique buddy system was created among the fellows at IIM Lucknow where the fellows were paired (based on the proximity of the districts) with each other to promote partnership, cooperation and collaboration among themselves.

Evidently, this arrangement was very helpful in cases of urgent communication, health issues and other coordination purposes.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Important activities of the program including both academic mentoring and work at district levels were regularly highlighted through a dedicated page on the LinkedIn. Specific effort was taken to recognize initiatives of fellows across districts.

ALUMNI MENTORS

Understanding the importance of giving practitioners' insights to fellows, collaboration was facilitated with the alumni network of the Institute. Alumni Mentors from diverse fields were engaged for providing mentoring support to fellows which resulted in facilitating the best-suited collaborations in the program. Besides providing individual mentoring support to the assigned mentee fellows, some of the Alumni Mentors also conducted sessions with fellows on various aspects of career development including resume writing, interview skills and working in consulting sector.



CAREER TRANSITION SUPPORT

Based on the feedback and recommendations by the fellows, the institute had taken initiatives to the extent possible to support and facilitate a smooth career transition post-completion of the fellowship. Sessions on Resume Writing and interview skills were being conducted as part of this initiative.

BLENDING PRACTITIONERS' INSIGHT

A conscious effort was taken to provide fellows with practitioner insights to complement the academic learning. The sessions by MSDE, MoSPI, NSDC, UNDP, TATA STRIVE, UN Women, Head Held High Foundation, and Azim Premji University were a step in this direction.


The topics ranged from Inclusive approach in skill development, apprenticeship, DSDP, NEP, data analysis, quality assurance in skill development, entrepreneurship, and others.



FACILITATING COLLABORATIONS

Facilitating collaboration of fellows with various organisations like HCL E-Haat, TATA STRIVE, NITI AAYOG and others to support the projects on ground.

- E-haat of the HCL Foundation. For onboarding of traditional handicrafts on e haat platfrm. 19 districts were selected in the first phase of the project. The process of onboarding was completed for 23 products from 15 partners in 19 districts.
- Atal Tinkering Labs of NITI Aayog to work on strengthening the efficacy and functioning of ATLs in the districts like Solan in HP, Mathura in Uttar Pardesh
- With Tata Strive for collaboration in areas like career counselling in the Solan district of Himachal Pradesh and entrepreneurship development in Sambhal district of Uttar Pradesh
- With National Skills Network an interactive session was organized on the International Women's Day. for sharing the success stories and experiences of the female fellows in the program. Besides this, some fellows have also published their articles on the platform.

SUMMARY		NOTES (0)		
Product	Image	Quantity	Unit Price	Total
Name: Moonj Orange-Violet Container				
Weight: 500		1	₹499	₹499
Length: 30 Width: 30 Height: 30		1.00 fulfilled	5% Tax Additional(exclusive): ₹25	
SKU: SKU-RVIGOMLWGRY				
			Sub Total:	₹499
		Shipping Charges(+)	Shiprocket-DTDC Surface (89):	₹89
			Portal Service Charge-6	₹13.7
			5% Tax Additional(exclusive):	₹25
			GST on Portal Service Charges(exclusive):	₹2.5
			Total Tax:	₹27.4



QUOTES FROM SOME OF OUR COLLABORATORS

“

Our interaction with MGNFs of IIM Lucknow on Women's Day 2023 was brief yet remarkably captivating. The online session brought out the extraordinary ways in which the fellows are empowering women in the districts through skill development and entrepreneurial support. It also highlighted how the programme has instilled a sense of empowerment and the belief in their individual abilities to be to be catalysts of change in our country

-Madhuri Dubey, Founder, National Skills Network



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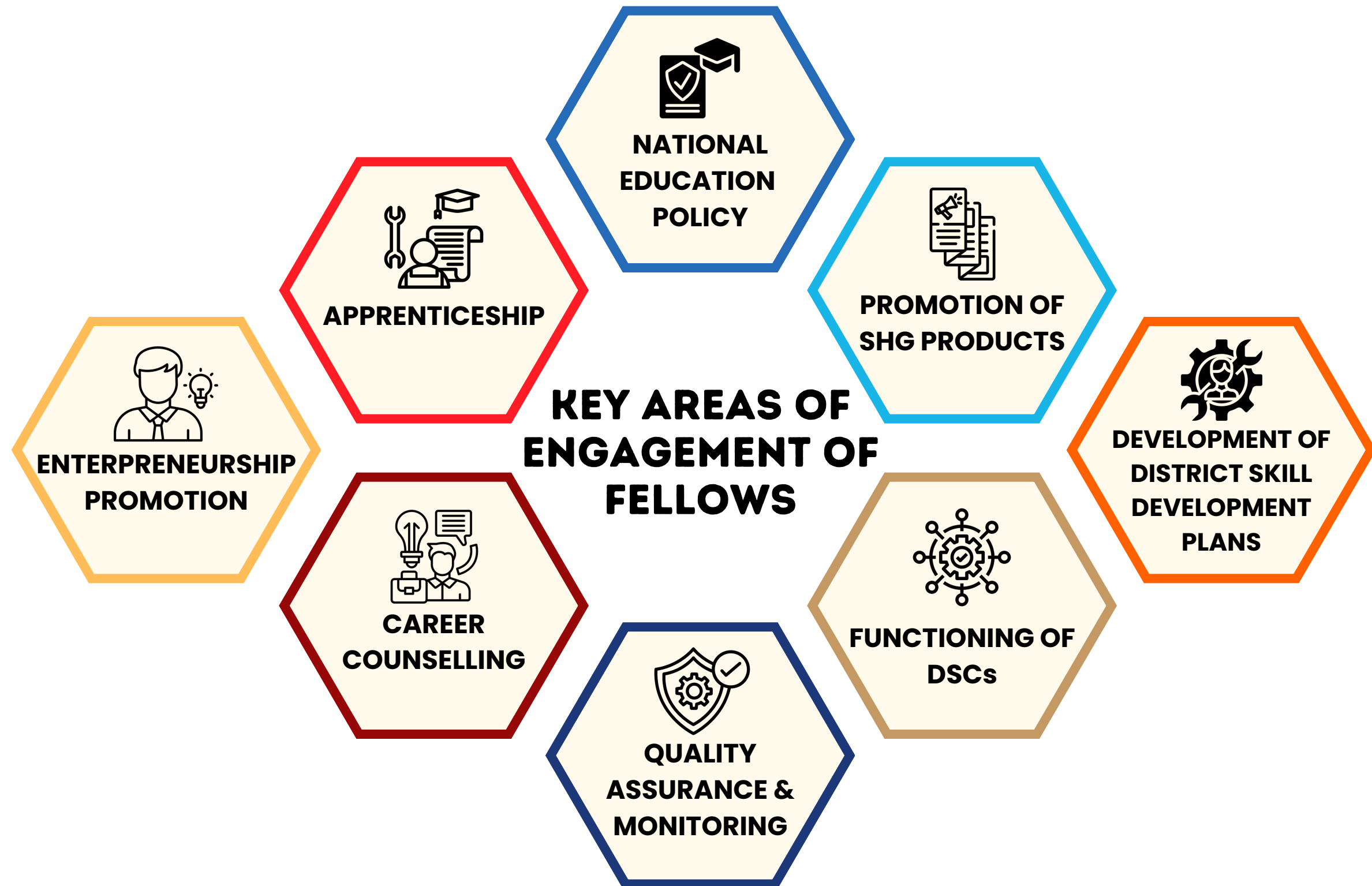
I've had the opportunity to engage with MGNFs during the program and interact with fellows deployed across different districts. These enthusiastic and talented young individuals have brought a fresh perspective and vital energy to address the national priority of skill development and employment. The experiences and knowledge gained during the program not only attract but also nurture much-needed talent for the skill development ecosystem. I've thoroughly enjoyed my interactions with the program, and I'm confident that many of the fellows from this program will emerge as future leaders in the skill development sector.

-Ameya Vanjari, COO, TATA Strive

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KEY AREAS OF ENGAGEMENT





ASSAM

32 FELLOWS
32 DSDP SUBMITTED

19

PRE
MGNF

DSC
MEETINGS

56

POST
MGNF

PROMOTION OF JAPI

ABHISHEK PAL, NALBARI, ASSAM

The Fellow worked on Skill Guru Promotion of Local Artisan Work on Japi Making through Local Guru/Expert at Nalbari for preserving the indigenous craft of Japi, a conical hat made from bamboo and adorned with colorful designs in the district. The Fellow actively strategized and planned the project, from selecting the guru or expert to outlining the objectives, implementation plan, and cost estimation for conducting a training program for 10 candidates in Japi making.



COLLABORATION WITH SELCO

DEV DARSHAN CHETIA, TINUSKIA, ASSAM

The fellow spearheaded an incubation program in the Tinsukia district through a collaborative partnership between the AIC Selco Foundation and the Tinsukia District administration. It aimed to provide essential support, including seed funding, product development, and soft skill training, to empower grassroots innovators through the AIC Selco Foundation. Notably, the fellow helped in identifying and supporting one promising innovator with a grant of INR 70,000, in addition to offering comprehensive soft skills and product development sessions.



TRANSGENDER SHG FORMATION

DHORITRI BORGOHAIN & NIHARIKA DAS, WEST KARBI
ANGLONG, KARBI ANGLONG, ASSAM



With inclusive development at the center of their approach, the Fellows of West Karbi Anglong and Karbi Anglong spearheaded facilitating the representation of the LGBTQIA+ community across both districts in the 49th Karbi Youth Festival, February 14–19, 2023. The fellows worked very closely with the KAAC, District Social Welfare Dept., Sakhi-One Stop Center, and Special Cell for Women (Diphu P.S.).

To further institutionalize this step, a first-of-its kind self-help group (SHG) for the LGBTQ community has been formed. This was done in collaboration with the District Hub for Women's Empowerment, the Sakhi One Stop Centre, and the Deputy Secretary of IT, KAAC.

WOMEN FPC FORMATION

SUKANYA DEVI, GOLAGHAT, ASSAM

Fellow was involved in the formation of the First Women FPC in Assam at the North Development Block of the Golaghat district. The Grant Thornton Bharat LLP Golaghat team, along with MGNF, held its first general body meeting (GBM) to elect the Board of Directors (BoDs) members for a female-led farmer producer company on May 12, 2022. A total of 182 female Farmer Interest Group (FIG) members from 10 FIGs attended the event.

Identifying the huge potential for production and livelihood opportunities in mustard sugarcane, blackgram, and seasonal vegetables, both the Project Director DRDA and ADO agreed to facilitate linkages for pertinent schemes and programs for the FPC and its members.



IBM SKILLSBUILD PROGRAMME

ANUSUA DAS, GOALPARA, ASSAM

With an objective of creating awareness, enhancing the skill sets and employment opportunities for the students, Fellow was engaged in implementing the IBM Skillsbuild project as pilot phase in 6 colleges of Goalpara. The three-day long program was instrumental in registering a total of 363 learners on the IBM portal. The fellow managed the execution of the initiative and facilitating the workshops.



WORKSHOP ON DigiBunai

SHARNA CHAKRABORTY, HAILAKANDI, ASSAM

Fellow was engaged in facilitating the conduct of a 2-day awareness workshop on DigiBunai, an initiative of the Textile Sector Skill Council. In the workshop, 24 skilled weavers from Chipar Sangam Handloom and Textiles Weaving Co-operative Society Ltd. were introduced to textile design making via the DigiBunai software launched under Ministry of Electronics & IT. The sessions also covered the basics of handloom weaving.



THEATRICAL ARTS WORKSHOP

LAKHIPRIYA DIHINGIA, MAJULI, ASSAM

A 10-day theatrical and dramatic training workshop was conducted for students to instill confidence and life skills and enrich the overall personality development process. The fellow was involved in the planning and implementation of the program. Right from identifying students from 10 villages to arranging resource persons and conducting workshops, the fellow has set an example for other fellows to think outside the box in skill development in the districts.



VAN DHAN VIKAS KENDRAS

BHAVANA DAS, UDALGURI, ASSAM

The Fellow of Udalguri conducted a survey of the 5 PM-VDVKs in the district and generated a status report on the functioning of the Kendras. The report highlighted the challenges of a lack of resources and the urgent need for proper infrastructure. It further identified the potential funding schemes to streamline the functionality of the Kendras and enhance the marketability of products made by the SHG women registered with the Kendras. The report was submitted on July 13, 2022, to the then District Commissioner, Udalguri.



IBM SKILLSBUILD PROGRAM

AMLAN CHETIA, KARIMGANJ, ASSAM

The IBM Skillsbuild program was initiated for three days in Karimganj district in India, aiming to promote digital learning for students by offering various free courses in digital skills. The initiative was conducted at four colleges in the district.

The program received an overwhelming response from students, with a participation of around 800 students. Around 200 students successfully registered for various courses on the online platform in the first week of the initiative. The Fellow successfully spearheaded the entire initiative from getting approval from the district administration, coordinating with the colleges, preparing the schedule, to managing the entire program.



FOOD PROCESSING

SHITANSHU KUMAR, BONGAIGAON, ASSAM

To enhance the food processing techniques of over 70 Self Help Groups (SHGs) under ASRLM, the Fellow actively engaged in training and upskilling SHG women involved in food processing and packaging in the district. Over ten newly mentored candidates subsequently launched their own food enterprises, while more than 500 women expressed an interest in acquiring food processing skills to uplift their living standards. Additionally, more than ten SHGs have modernized their packaging, resulting in increased sales.





JAL MITRAS

ATLANTA BORAH, BISWANATH, ASSAM

Under the direction of the District Administration, the fellow was engaged in facilitating training of Jal Mitras, a project aimed to train and certify plumbers and electricians so they could be hired as Jal Mitras. Navigating the lack of availability of training partners in the district for the sector, the fellow collaborated with the Industrial Training Institutes and resource persons and facilitated training in 10 days. In the initial batch, 179 plumbers and electricians were trained who later got appointed as Jal Mitras and enhanced their livelihood opportunities.

EMPOWERING SERICULTURE

POULAMEE DEY, CHIRANG, ASSAM

The fellow facilitated the distribution of Eri motorized spinning machines by the District Administration to self-help groups (SHGs) actively engaged in the intricate realm of sericulture. Ten SHGs were the recipients of this technology, with a total of 50 Eri Motorized Spinning Machines allocated. To ensure a seamless transition to this advanced machinery, a comprehensive 10-day training session was meticulously organized in partnership with the RSETI, which increased the average thread production per person per day, which was 35 grams in March, to an impressive 125 grams.





17

37

DSC
MEETINGS

PRE
MGNF

POST
MGNF

HIMACHAL PRADESH

11 FELLOWS
11 DSDP SUBMITTED

PROJECT SOMBHADRA

SHIVANI KAUSHAL, UNA. HIMACHAL PRADESH

“Sombhadra” project aimed to address the standardization, marketing & branding support to the SHG products. On pilot basis, 5 active SHG’s per block in the district were roped in through District Rural Development Agency (DRDA). This was later scaled up to 31 active groups in the district under this brand. As per the sales data (from November 2021 to April 2022) of the district level Sombhadra fair and Regional Fair, the groups have done a business of Rs 3,27,000/- and till April it has done the business of Rs7,55,723/- which is a significant improvement from pervious fairs of similar nature. The women are now more independent and confident about their products. Some of the groups have also been given training on the Entrepreneurial development by RSETI to further encourage and promote their entrepreneurial initiative and livelihood promotion.



SIMLA FARMS' PRODUCTS

NAVENDU SHARMA, SHIMLA, HIMACHAL PRADESH

To address the branding and packaging issues of local products by SHGs, the fellow was engaged in creating and launch of the district-level brand for products "Simla Farms". Standardization and new design to their products brought by the initiative is helping scale up the production by 4000+ self-help groups in the district of Shimla.

In the initial phase fellow started with 30 products of the SHGs of two nearby blocks, Tutu Block and Mashobra Block. After the successful launch of the new design in the Mela organised by Municipal corporation, 50 more products have been added, covering the major portfolio of all the products.



CAREER COUNSELLING SESSIONS

JASBIR SINGH, BILASPUR, HIMACHAL PRADESH

A series of career counselling sessions was conducted for students from 9th to 12th class . The intervention led to improvement in the ability of students to make informed decisions about their academic and career paths. Workshops and seminars exposed students to a variety of career options they were not previously aware of, encouraging them to explore new possibilities. Interaction with successful professionals motivated students to work harder towards their career goals and strive for excellence.



APNA KANGRA

DIVY SHARMA, KANGRA, HIMACHAL PRADESH

A mobile application- Apna Kangra has been developed by the district administration . Single brand name- Apna Kangra is used with the SHG name at the bottom. The products are being sold on the application, which is also an e-commerce app. Some SHGs, like Vishwapujita SHG, have also been on boarded as partners on HCL E-haat to improve their market outreach. It is also being envisioned as a local service provider app in future



PROJECT PRAYOG

AMISHA YADAV, SOLAN. HIMACHAL PRADESH

After assessing the general lack of career guidance and counseling across schools, colleges, and ITIs through the Youth Aspiration Survey'22, the fellow through DSC, initiated a project called Prayog in the Solan district. Three workshops targeting 500+ students were conducted in collaboration with TATA Strive.

These workshops further highlighted the need for institutionalized, sustainable guidance programs for the training of teachers. Thus, in collaboration with SCERT and higher education, 40+ teachers were trained in counseling and guidance.



SHGs AWARENESS PROGRAM

VAISHALI THAKUR, LAHAUL & SPITI, HIMACHAL PRADESH

An exposure program for SHGs was organized at a 4-star hotel in Manali. Stalls of traditional handicrafts and Sea Buckthorn were set up on the premises, which made good sales and simultaneously enhanced the confidence of the participants. Motivated by the program, one of the participants went on to meet the Prime Minister in AdiMahotsav.





MIZORAM

11 FELLOWS
11 DSDP SUBMITTED

08

PRE
MGNF

DSC
MEETINGS

62

POST
MGNF



SKILL CAMP

PRANNAV DUTTA, CHAMPHAI, MIZORAM

Skill Camp is a comprehensive campaign that was conceptualized to target youths in the district and generate awareness among them regarding skilling and its opportunities in the state of Mizoram and India. Around 400+ youths have been reached out to through various skill camps conducted in Champhai, Hnahlan, and Khawbung.

PINE-APPLE BONAZA

MANISH KUMAR, KHAWZAWL, MIZORAM

The fellow's visionary initiative has transformed the pineapple sector in Khawzawl district of Mizoram. The Aizawl Pineapple Bonanza events in 2022 and 2023, partnering with the Tuichangral Organic Farmer Producer Company Ltd., culminated in the sale of 15 metric tons of pineapples, which were also innovatively processed. This effort bolstered farmers' revenue by 60% in just a few days. Subsequently, Mizoram dispatched 18 metric tons of pineapples, with Sialhawk village exporting 230 kg to Dubai. Last year, 320 families generated Rs. 95 lakh from pineapples, and this year's forecast suggests 10,000 quintals. Between July and August 2023 alone, the FPC marketed 20.875 metric tons of pineapples and profited Rs. 78,310 from 205 jars of jam. Collectively, Sialhawk Pineapple Producer Society's report of about Rs. 140 lakhs for 12,000 quintals and Tuichangral FPC's massive 15,970 quintal sales underscore a promising future for Khawzawl's farmers.



IBM SKILLS-BUILD

AKSHAYA JALASTEEN, AIZAWL, MIZORAM

The IBM SkillsBuild initiative in Mizoram, in partnership with DSC Aizawl and CSRBOX, has ushered in a new era of empowerment for the youth in the district. With a focus on skill development, digital literacy, and fostering opportunities, this collaboration has made waves by transforming education, bridging gaps, and cultivating a brighter future. Enrolled students have gained lifetime access to 8500 IBM courses, certifications, software downloads, and learning support.



PROJECT NITI KUSHAL

VIKAS WALKE, SERCHHIP, MIZORAM

The fellow conceptualized and initiated the Niti Kushal project in September 2022 to improve skill outcomes in 20 schools and a college. Under this, district administration collaborated with the CSR IBM Skills Build program and introduced online learning platforms to nearly 500 students in the district. An assessment of 50 SHG's, FPO's, and cooperative societies was also conducted to improve their management and product quality. The initiative aimed to bring their products to e-commerce platforms.



BAMBOO HANDICRAFTS

GAYATRI KHURANA, MAMIT, MIZORAM

Fellow was engaged in initiating the formal training in bamboo craft in the district. Two batches of bamboo handicraft training, along with the assessment and certification of all trainees, have been completed. A local artisan who had been a master at producing bamboo handicraft for more than 30 years was chosen as a trainer. He was registered as a certified skill trainer under the Skill India portal. Assessment done by MFM, implementation, and monitoring by the Horticulture Department, Mamit, and MGNF Fellow.

The main craft learned during this training was EMPING, which is structured like bamboo baskets, which has special significance in Mizo rituals. Lushai women use this basket for marketing or carrying belongings to the fields.



DRAGON FRUIT UPSKILLING FARMERS

SAI TEJASWINI T, SAITUAL, MIZORAM

The Fellow has worked on the project by the District Horticulture Office on short-term skill training in pest and disease management of dragon fruit crops for 30 farmers. The assessment and certification of the farmers were carried out by the MNREGA office in Saitual. This initiative was part of the DSC skill training program.

An innovative aspect of this project was the implementation of QR codes on the training certificates. These QR codes have the profile of the farmer who received the training and certification. This idea was devised and implemented by the fellow leading the project. The success and effectiveness of this concept have led to its adoption by the DSC, and it is now being explored for future training and certification programs.



ATAL TINKERING LABS

SUDHANSHU GANGWAR, LAWNGTLAI, MIZORAM

The fellow activated the Atal Tinkering Lab at NES School, Lawngtlai, driving educational advancement. This marks the first functional ATL lab beyond Aizawl, benefiting 300 students daily from grades 6 to 10. The fellow undertook the Level 1 ATL certification course, equipping him with the skills needed to teach the students effectively. He conducted daily classes for 6-10 students, delivering Level 1 training over a three-month period to approximately 300 students. Recognizing the importance of building a strong foundation, the fellow also focused on upskilling the science teachers by providing them with a basic course, enhancing their capacity to guide and inspire the students effectively, preparing them for Level 2 and national competitions.



TEACHER'S UPSKILLING PROGRAM

PALLAVI DHIMAN , KOLASIB, MIZORAM

The fellow collaborated with the UK-based Royal Society of Chemistry, a non-profit organisation for its Yusuf Hamied Inspirational Science Programme that aims to equip teachers across India with the specialist knowledge and skills to deliver exciting and engaging science lessons. Two experts from Bangalore and Pune conducted an engaging two-day course to upskill science teachers including using innovative, and home-based lab activities for instructors to improve student engagement and make science aspirational for Mizo students.

Science teachers from 160 Kolasib schools of 5th to 10th grade attended this program. The Samagra Siksha helped organise the week-long workshop in two district blocks that has been estimated to benefit 8,000 students.



ELF ENGLISH PROGRAM

AJINKYA MADKAIKAR, LUNGLEI, MIZORAM

Starting with letters and proceeding to graded levels, the ELF English curriculum helped youngsters read, understand, and express themselves in English. The program aims to improve the confidence and language abilities of the students. This curriculum provided children with ELF learning applications, DVDs, and workbooks.

The ELF Learning Solutions team educated over 70 teachers in 60 primary schools and supplied workbooks and e-learning materials to improve teaching and pedagogy. This initiative has helped over 2500 youngsters in the district.



JOB FAIR

NIKHIL JAGNADE, SIAHA, MIZORAM

The fellow conducted a comprehensive survey within the district with the aim of identifying potential employers and available job opportunities. The results were promising, as seven employers displayed their interest along with the substantial participation of over 250 students in the Siaha Job Fair. This event served as a vital bridge between aspiring students and prospective employers, paving the way for mutually beneficial connections in the local job market. The initiative was conducted on June 13, 2023.





UTTAR PRADESH

51 FELLOWS
51 DSDP SUBMITTED

81

PRE
MGNF

DSC
MEETINGS

203

POST
MGNF

PROJECT ARGA

MOHD. WASIUDDIN, GONDA, UTTAR PRADESH



On June 16, 2023, Project ARGA was initiated to address the branding, packaging, and market linkages for SHGs, FPOs, and KVICS' products in the district. Fellow assisted in conceptualizing and monitoring the initiative.

Phase 1 included 79 products: 55 from SHGs of different blocks, 16 from FPOs, and 8 from ODOP and KVIC. 76 MoUs were inked with district retailers like Reliance Smart Bazaar, ITC, V-Mart, and Big Bazar to market and promote these products. 5 selling outlets have been started in different tehsils and Women SHGs received three Nagar Palika spaces and one NABARD rural haat. The project is helping in augmenting the livelihoods of 600 SHG women and 200 farmers.

FOOD LANE

ANURADHA NIRWAN, KASGANJ, UTTAR PRADESH

Fellow had spearheaded the initiative to establish the first of its kind 'Food Lane' in the district. The women SHGs running this innovative project serve some of the most delicious, authentic foods that are becoming more and more popular.

The first food lane in the district was inaugurated on July 31, 2023. The walls of the SHG-run cafeteria have been adorned with murals, adding a unique and creative approach. It is encouraging to know that the cafeteria was able to secure sales worth ₹103215 in the first month itself.





ZAYKA E RAMPUR

SAUMYA SINGH, RAMPUR, UTTAR PRADESH

Fellow posted in Rampur district had worked on Zayka-e-Rampur which is a three-staged initiative. In its first stage, an inventory of unique cuisines and crafts of Rampur had been identified, compiled, and published on June 29, 2023.

In subsequent stages, the project aims to diversify into various sectors, establish linkages with existing schemes like PMSVANidhi, which will be followed up with training and certification in these unique crafts and cuisines of the district, and link them to the Project Heritage Trails of Rampur.

MASTER DATABASE

RAHUL KUMAR, BASTI, UTTAR PRADESH

The fellow helped develop a district-centric master database of all skill training data for the past 3 years. The database includes information such as blocks, village, gender, age, qualification, sector of training and job role, employment or self-employment, and category of the trainees. This data will be instrumental as an evidence-based policy-making tool to analyze and identify gaps in the current training programs and recommend necessary course corrective actions.

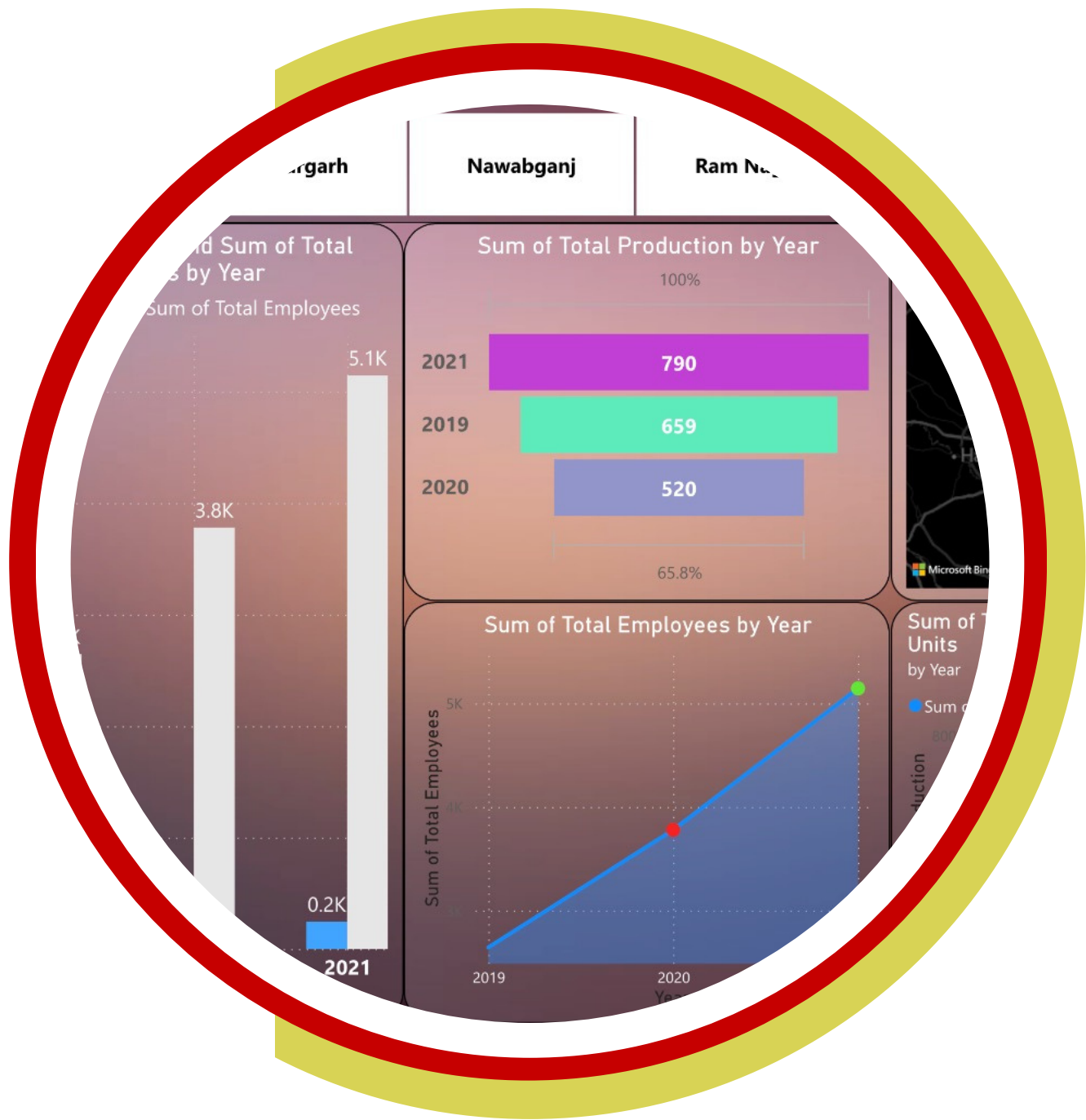


LIVELIHOOD DASHBOARD

INDRAJEET KUMAR, BARABANKI, UTTAR PRADESH

In order to strengthen the convergence of initiatives for livelihood promotion, fellow had developed a first-of-its kind livelihood dashboard in the district to collect local-level livelihood data in the district.

The fellow was engaged in the end-to-end process, right from the collection of the relevant data to structuring, organising, and analysing the same as an interactive dashboard. The dashboard has been appreciated by the district administration, and they are working on hosting the dashboard live on the NIC website of Barabanki district.



ENTREPRENEURSHIP DEVELOPMENT

ANAND BOIPAI, SAMBHAL, UTTAR PRADESH

Fellow had collaborated with Tata STRIVE to facilitate an Entrepreneurship Development Programme (EDP) in Bahjoi, the district headquarters of Sambhal and Babrala. 265 candidates were present on the day of screening which was followed by written test, group activity and personal interview. 97 candidates were selected and out of which 90 candidates secured 20000/- grant from SIDBI to open their business. 38 candidates have started their businesses. The fellow had also organized sessions on drone technology at the Atal Tinkering Lab (ATL), where 62 students participated.



COLLABORATION WITH ATLs

MOHIT RAJPUT, MATHURA, UTTAR PRADESH



Fellow had anchored the collaboration with ATLs in the district. He had worked closely with 30 Atal Tinkering Labs (ATLs) in the district and facilitated an online session by the Atal Innovation Mission team for ATLs.

The session focused on solving issues related to ATLs such as updating data on ATL dashboard, application for second tranche of the grant.

Apart from this, the fellow also conducted a field research by visiting around 6 ATLs to understand the issues ATLs were facing and the operational status of the ATLs in the district and submitted the report to NITI Aayog.

SKILL AT DOORSTEP

VIBHOR SHUKLA, CHITRAKOOT, UTTAR PRADESH

To address the gap in accessibility of the training centers for the youth and trainees residing in far-off locations, the district administration initiated "Skill at Door Step", by creating skill centers at the sub-divisional, block level, and gram panchayat level.

The initiative has been helpful in reducing dropout rates and poor attendance. Under this initiative, 9 centers have been created where more than 1000+ trainees were trained in FY 2021-22.



MICROSOFT SKILLING

SHUBHAM MISHRA, BAGHPAT, UTTAR PRADESH



Microsoft Skilling Diversity was a 4 week long programme conducted in 3 districts of UP where students were taught courses on employability, entrepreneurship, digital productivity, communication skills. The program focuses to upskill & impart professional training specifically to women and girls of India covering various aspects like digital productivity, employability, spoken english, and entrepreneurship skills.

While the fellow in Baghpat successfully registered over 1050+ students, MGNF Ghaziabad achieved the registration count of 950+ and MGNF Muzaffarnagar was successful in registering 1200+ students in the "Microsoft Diversity Skilling Program."

PUSHPANJALI – EK PRAYAS

ASHISH YADAV, SHAMLI, UTTAR PRADESH

The Fellow conceptualized and initiated Pushpanjali: Ek Prayas initiative to augment income generation activities for SHGs. Under this initiative, he facilitated the production and market linkages of herbal gulaal and value-added products of flowers by the producer group- Pushpanjali.

The herbal gulaal was purely made of edible items like beetroot, spinach, coriander, carrot, and flowers.

Over 150 kg of gulaal were produced and marketed through the Pushpanjali Group in just 3 days of its inauguration during Holi. A similar initiative was undertaken in Shravasti district, where over 750kg of organic gulaal was sold during Holi with 300% profits.





SPACE LAB

ABHISHEK KESHRI, SIDDHARTH NAGAR, UTTAR PRADESH

With an objective to achieve a 100% gross enrollment ratio at the elementary level and encourage skill-based learning, Fellow was engaged in establishing India's first rural space laboratory under the sphere of ISRO in Hasudi Ausanpur in collaboration with Vyomika Space Pvt. Ltd. The success of this project is evident, with more than 90% of the students attending school after the implementation of the program.

WIFS PROGRAMME

KSHITIJ KUMAR, SHRAVASTI, UTTAR PRADESH

The fellow was engaged in achieving 100% Weekly Iron and Folic Acid Supplementation (WIFS) compliance in the district. Infant and maternal mortality was high in Shravasti due to severe anaemia. The district administration developed a roadmap including training of the officers and field visits to improve the WIFS program.

The officers were given training to focus on mid-day meal quality, WIFS registration maintenance, iron tablet availability, and student cross-questioning. To eliminate loopholes, UNICEF, WHO, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Piramal, Save the Children, Pratham, etc. cross-verified the system. The program led to many positive results including improvement in student attendance, midday meal quality, Iron tablet consumption, and learning outcomes of the students



HAMSHO PROJECT

VIRENDRA KUMAR, HAMIRPUR, UTTAR PRADESH



HAMSHO stands for Hamirpur Shoes, which is the representative name for the handmade leather shoes produced in the Hamirpur district as part of the One District One Product (ODOP). The fellow was engaged in the project to empower artisans crafting exquisite handmade leather shoes. It enabled enhanced market access to products through My E-HAAT e-commerce portal, training of 27 artisans through ITI training (UPSDM), supporting them financially with ODOP and PMEGP schemes, and equipping them with essential toolkits. HAMSHO became a beacon of hope for these skilled artisans, ensuring that the legacy of handmade leather shoes continues to thrive in Hamirpur.

ODOP MARKET LINKAGE

NIDHI BARIHA, PRAYAGRAJ, UTTAR PRADESH

Through collaboration with the “E-Haat” e-commerce platform of the HCL Foundation, Fellow has facilitated increased access to digital marketplaces for local-made handicraft products, especially those made by Moonj artisans in Prayagraj district. The initiative aimed to bridge the gap between artisans and market platforms at the national and international levels.

Currently, one artisan, namely Fatima Bibi, is onboarded on the platform, and in December 2022, she received two orders. This little success has encouraged her to connect with two more artisans directly and 30 more indirectly. In the process, she is improving her photography skills, learning the importance of better packaging and standardisation of the products and has also learned online banking.





MODEL GARMENT UNIT

MANISH GUPTA, AMETHI, UTTAR PRADESH

Fellow deployed in Amethi district was engaged in initiating the project of Model Garment Unit to provide forward and backward linkages to trained women communities and support in their entrepreneurial journey. This initiative was done in collaboration with CSR with Indo-Rama India Pvt. Ltd. The initial operational revenue of the unit was Rs 20,000 per month and is expected to increase in the future.

JUVENILE HOME TRAINING

PRAVIN SINGH, MAU, UTTAR PRADESH

The fellow conducted awareness sessions on importance of Skill Development training in Juvenile Home in the district. With this session, he was able to create awareness about Skill Development training, apart from monitoring the existing training facilities. The fellow was also able to motivate and counsel students for training, resulting in an increase in enrolment numbers by more than 200%; from initial 27 to final 72 enrollments.



CUPPING THERAPY

TARANG BHARTI, SAHARANPUR, UTTAR PRADESH

Fellow deployed in Saharanpur district has facilitated the conduct of the Cupping Therapy Assistant course in Deoband, Saharanpur. Additionally, the fellow has also facilitated the conduct of Senior Beauty Therapy Assistant course in the Balika Grah of the district for POSCO victims, abducted girls, etc. Over 216 candidates received training for the cupping therapy assistant course in the 2022-23, and 108 people have been trained in 2023-2024 so far.



MID-COURSE ACTIVITY

UTKARSH SHUKLA, MUZAFFARNAGAR, UTTAR PRADESH

To promote continuous learning, professionalism and overall development of candidates, the fellow was engaged in initiating the mid-course activities in training programs in district. During Middle of Course, Training Partners are directed to complete the activities through District Coordinator and their batch verification file is signed only after scrutinizing enclosed report of Mid-Course Activity. The Training Partner utilizes existing infrastructure and resources however, in case of cash rewards nominal financial resources are required. Mid Course Activities were designed to bridge the gap between theoretical knowledge and its practical application, enhancing the effectiveness and relevance of the training program.



STRENGTHENING **ATLs**

AMBIKESH, GHAZIABAD, UTTAR PRADESH



The fellow successfully revitalized dormant Atal Tinkering Lab, benefiting over 200 students annually. Collaborative efforts with the DIOS department and Polytechnic College introduced cutting-edge courses aligned with the National Education Policy (NEP), ensuring long-term sustainability.

To enhance learning, 3 Polytechnic teachers were deployed, and a school teacher enlisted to build sustainability in the initiative. These efforts resulted in increased student engagement and lab utilization, marking significant progress in educational opportunities for the community.

MoUs SIGNED FOR SHGs

AMAN AWASTHI, HATHRAS, UTTAR PRADESH

With the help of the District Industries and Export Promotion Centre and MGNF, the district unit of the National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) has developed several social entrepreneurship projects for active SHG groups to promote rural women's entrepreneurship. This effort uses "white labeling," where SHGs make powdered dry spices, glass beads, ready-made garments, milk, etc. for wholesalers, industries, and large enterprises to process and sell under their brand names.

Fellow was engaged in signing of MoUs between SHGs and industries specifying all product delivery and payment requirements. MoUs have been signed between 100 SHGs and 30 establishments in all 7 blocks of the district.



CHAUPALS & KARYASHALAS

DARPAN CHIB, DEORIA, UTTAR PRADESH



To provide information about different schemes, trainings, loan facilities, subsidies, and other benefits directly to the public, the fellow was engaged in initiating the first of its kind Chaupals cum 'Karyashalas' at block levels. The Chaupals have representatives not only from the skill department but also from other departments, including agriculture and allied activities, etc., to provide comprehensive information and create awareness among the target beneficiaries.

Three such Chaupals have already been conducted in Deoria Sadar, Baitalpur, and Aspirational Block: Gauri Bazaar securing over 400 participants. Following a contemporary approach to reaching out to communities, a YouTube channel with a dedicated playlist for each department has also been created.

LIVELIHOOD WORKSHOPS

NITENDRA SINGH, SANT KABIR NAGAR, UTTAR PRADESH

Adhering to the idea of livelihood generation and entrepreneurship, Fellow deployed in Sant Kabir Nagar, worked on organizing workshops promoting schemes pertaining to said areas.

Workshops were organized in different blocks, targeting SHGs and FPOs, in collaboration with industrial firms and other similar stakeholders giving live demonstrations to the participants. In total more than 1000 SHG and FPO members were exposed to different government schemes promoting their livelihood generation.



We acknowledge and appreciate the work done by each one of our fellows and collaborative support from all the stakeholders in the program.

IIM Lucknow is committed to work on such transformative initiatives in future as well.





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