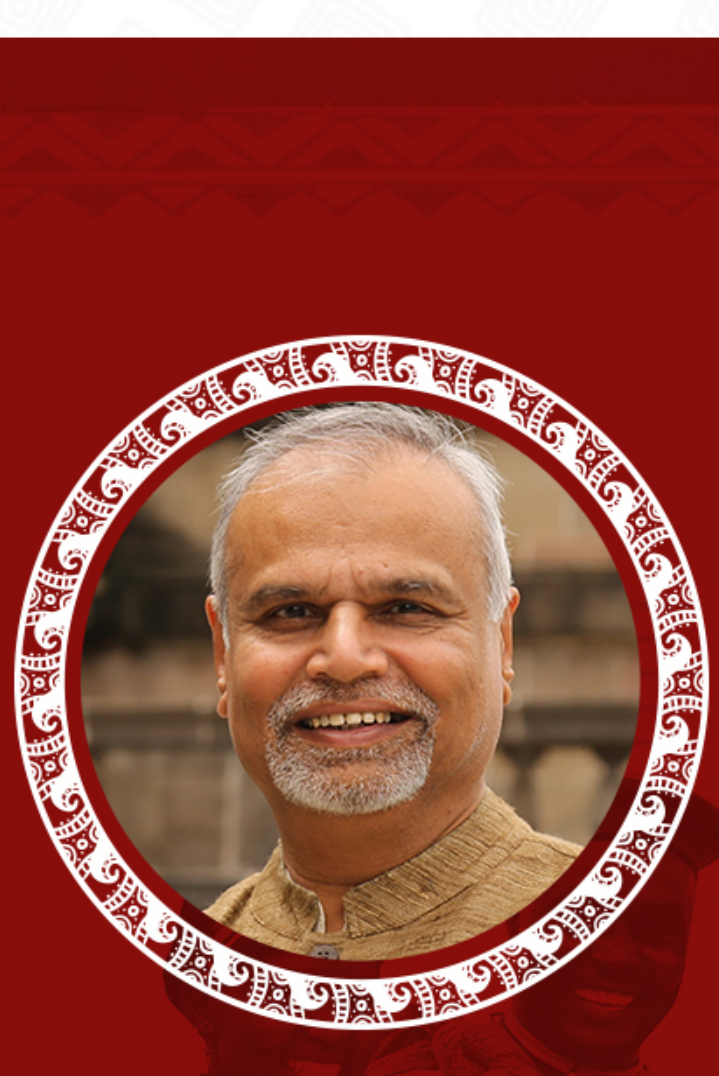
SAMVAAD FELLOWSHIP

Encourages community-based action research on tribal culture and heritage, propelled by a network of like-minded individuals.

The Samvaad Fellowship was initiated in 2017 and over the last three years, it has built a cohort of 16 Fellows working in different elements of culture preservation like language, food habits, religious practices, folk song and folktales, tribal art et al. The intended outcome of the Fellowship is to set examples of how individuals from a community may address an issue critical to the culture of the community through a social action initiative. Samvaad Fellowship provides critical gap funding and also works towards facilitating platforms at national and international levels for providing enhanced inputs to the fellows which would further help them to work on their projects in a more impactful manner. The journey has been exciting with the diversity of cultural ideas that it has witnessed.

This year, we have received an overwhelming 103 eligible applications from 20 states which is more than double the applications received last year which are being evaluated by a jury. During Samvaad 2020, candidates who have made it to the final round of jury selection will engage with subject matter experts on how to weave their stories, craft proposals and create a shared goal with community and on the concluding day (November 19) Samvaad fellows 2020 will be announced.

JURY



Patricia Mukhim

Ms Patricia Mukhim is currently the Editor of The Shillong Times, one of the oldest English language dailies of the Northeast. She has also been an activist taking up issues of corruption and gender concerns. Ms. Mukhim has been a member of the National Security Advisory Board, Government of India and contributed extensively on issues beyond military security. She has also been on the Board of the Indian Institute of Mass Communication.
Ms Mukhim writes regular columns for national dailies to better interpret the problems and opportunities of the North East to the rest of India. Ms. Mukhim has also authored a book- "Waiting for an equal world' which looks at gender concerns in India's Northeast. She is a recipient of several journalistic awards including the Padmashree.

Anjali Monteiro & K.P Jayashankar

Anjali Monteiro and K.P. Jayasankar are ex-Professors at the School of Media and Cultural Studies, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai. Monteiro has a Masters degree in Economics and a Ph.D. in Sociology. Jayasankar has an M.A. in German Studies and a Ph.D. in Humanities and Social Sciences. Both of them are involved in media production, teaching and research. They have played a key role in setting up the School of Media and Cultural Studies, TISS and the MA programme in Media and Cultural Studies. They teach courses in documentary and video production as well as theoretical approaches to image making practices. They have done pioneering and innovative work in critical media education with various groups including government officials, activists, school and college students, parents and teachers.

Monteiro and Jayasankar are both recipients of the Howard Thomas Memorial Fellowship in Media Studies, and have been associated to Goldsmith's College, London and the University of Western Sydney.

Vaibhav Chauhan

Vaibhav Chauhan has been trained in managing and conserving heritage. He is a founder member and secretary of Sahapedia, and is responsible for resource development and operations.

Vaibhav has top-up degrees in sustainable tourism, heritage management, CSR, Public Policy, and management from institutions that include IIT-Bombay, ISB, WWF and Harvard Business School. He has worked with the National Mission for Manuscripts and Sangeet Natak Akademi.

Vaibhav has conceived and led multiple award winning programs like Sahapedia - UNESCO fellowships, India Heritage Walks, Museums of India and India Heritage Walks Festival.

Madan Meena

Madan Meena is a visual artist and researcher. He has worked extensively with artists and craftsperson from local communities in Rajasthan and Gujarat. His doctoral dissertation was on wall paintings done by the Meena tribe women which he has exhibited across the country and abroad. He has published two books on the subject, Joy of Creativity and Nurturing Walls.

As a curator, he has designed an exhibition on brooms for the 'Arna Jharna Museum' of Rupayan Sansthan in Jodhpur. He was also Associate Director for the film 'Jharu Katha' on the same subject.

Madan has been regularly recording oral traditions among the nomadic, agrarian and hereditary caste musician communities. His major work is on 'Tejaji Ballad' widely sung across Rajasthan. At present Madan is Honorary Director of the Adivasi Academy situated in Gujarat, where he trying to restore the sustainable models among the indigenous communities.

Mahedev Toppo

Mahadev Toppo is a tribal poet and a retired banker. He holds an MA in Hindi and Film Appreciation Certificate Course from FTTI, Pune,
He has been assisting in writing articles and its video production to prepare 40 articles, lectures on Jharkhand art literature culture for Ranchi University for self-training program sponsored by UGC. He has an active role of co-convenor for the said program.

Mr. Toppo has published many articles, story and poetry like "Jungle Pahar ke Paath" (Poetry Collection), "Tribal among civilians" (collection of articles), " kalam ko teer hone do". He has also written Kurukh drama like " Budh Bhagtas Isan Raadas" "Singi Dai Baraa Lagi". His awards includes National award for his Kurukh short film "Edpa Kana (Going Home)" Birsa Munda award , Chhotanagpur Nagpur Puri Award and Honored by Jakhand Indigenous People's Forum for his Kundukh short feature film "Pahada".

His participation is in several university seminars including Sahitya Academy. Mr. Toppo received appreacitation for anchoring for the news mail YouTube channel - "Changing tribal society" - interview program. Many motivational talks are aired with AIR Ranchi and Shahdol.

Currently Mr. Mahadeo Toppo is engaged in literature writing and social service

Sonam Wangchok

Sonam Wangchok completed his Ph.D in Buddhist Studies, University of Delhi. He is the founder of Himalayan Cultural Heritage Foundation which works for the preservation and promotion of cultural heritage in the Himalayas. He has been part of several associations, research institutes and colleges. He was awarded the District Award in 2016 by the Government of Jammu & Kashmir. He has also published more than 15 journals and books on culture and heritage.

Dr. Abhay Sagar Minz

Dr. Abhay Sagar Minz presently is Assistant Professor at PG Department of Anthropology, DSMP University (formerly Ranchi College Ranchi) with 12 years of teaching experience.

He did his schooling from St. Xavier's School, Doranda, Ranchi and M.Sc in Anthropology from Hansraj College, University of Delhi. He completed his doctoral thesis on Emerging Patterns of Migration from Tribal Jharkhand from Ranchi University and has been actively involved in raising issues and concerns of tribal at various national and international platforms since the year 2006.

His major thrust areas include tribal rights, culture and indigenous language. Dr Abhay is presently the Director of International Documentation Centre of Endangered Indigenous Languages and Cultures located in the DSPM University and the Honorary Member at ICCAs Consortium, Geneva along with International expert adviser at YFEED Nepal and Adviser at AYIPN, Philippines. He is also the Young Alumni at WUJA, Luxembourg, Chief Adviser at All India Tribal Development Council for Jharkhand State and General Secretary of tribal officer's association, Jharkhand Jagriti Manch, which supports the economically weak tribal students who excel in examination.

Ambika Prasad Nanda

Mr. Ambika Prasad Nanda is the Head of Corporate Social Responsibility of Tata Steel in Odisha. He has worked with international NGOs on the issues of education, land, training and capacity building, sustainable livelihoods, and climate change and disaster management, to facilitate creation of people's institutions through participatory public discourse.

A post graduate in Analytical and Applied Economics and with a doctoral studies from J.N.U, New Delhi, Dr. Nanda is presently working as the Head of Corporate Social Responsibility of Tata Steel in Odisha. He has also been a member of the State Planning Board, Government of Odisha and facilitated democratic space for the civil society organizations, to share evidences from the field to influence policy work. He has also been the Head of UNDP programmes in the states of Odisha and Jharkhand and has initiated many research based policy works.

Debdoot Mohanty

Debdoot Mohanty has been working in the development sector for the past 27 years. During these years, he has worked with different organizations and learned the nuances of direct implementation, program strategy formulation, project development & management, action research and grant making. Since 2008, he has been associated with Tata Steel as Head CSR (Jharkhand and new projects) responsible for implementation of CSR projects in Jharkhand and other partnership projects in the organization. He has also worked in many other organizations in different capacities.

IN CONVERSATION WITH

Ajit Chaudhuri

Ajit Chaudhuri heads the community services team within Tata Sustainability Group, and drives the subjects of CSR, Disaster Response, Volunteering and Business and Human Rights. He has earlier worked in the development sector.

He has a Bachelor's degree in Economics from the Shriram College of Commerce and a Master's in Rural Management from the Institute of Rural Management (IRMA). He was awarded the Chevening Gurukul Scholarship by the British Government in 2001, wherein he spent a semester at the London School of Economics studying leadership and development.

Gunjal Ikir Munda

Gunjal is working with the Central University of Jharkhand at Ranchi. He has participated in many conferences in India and abroad on topics such as Munda Linguistics, Endangered and Lesser Known Languages, Youth Leadership and Capacity Building Trainings. He has also given talks on Resources, Politics and Tribes. He has delivered lectures on 'Birsa Munda' at TISS, Tuljapur and 'Understanding the World of Adivasis During and After the Lockdown' at BAPSA. He has several publications to his name including Dr. Ram Dayal Munda Ke Bina Sanskritik Aandolan (Prabhat Khabar), Transliteration of Sosobonga by Ram Dayal Munda and Ratan Singh Manki (Adivaani Publications, Kolkata) and Sanskritik Chintan-3 (Rumbul , Ranchi).

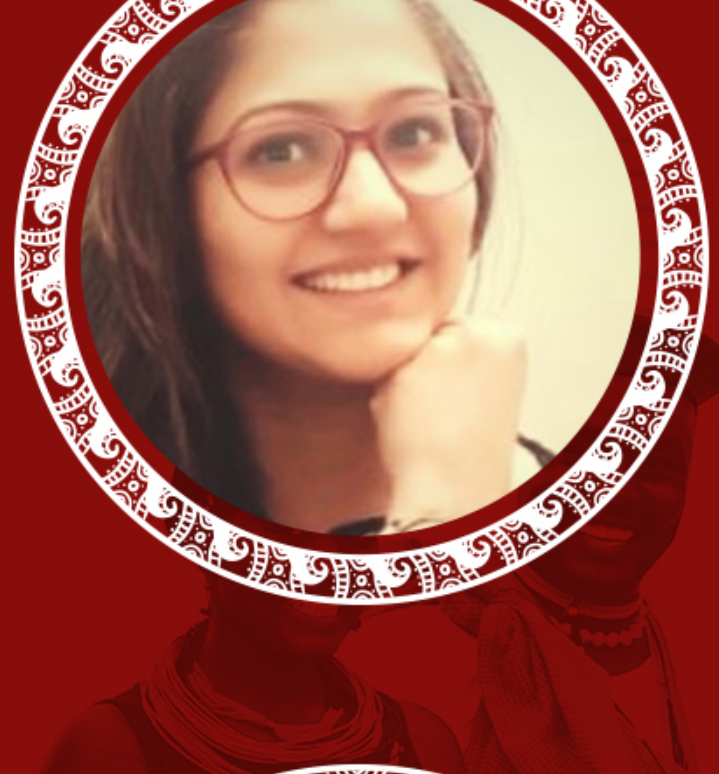
Reena I Puri

Reena I. Puri, Executive Editor, Amar Chitra Katha, has been with the company since 1991. She has a demonstrated history of working in the publishing industry such as newspapers, magazines and television production houses. She has even worked as a radio jockey with All India Radio for a short period, till she discovered that writing comics was her forte.

Reena was Associate Editor of Tinkle from 1991 and worked with its founder editor Anant Pai till 2005. During these years, she learned from Mr Pai how to communicate effectively with children and use the comics format to convey inspiration, encouragement, hope and joy.

In 2008 she took over as Editor of Amar Chitra Katha and has led the team in the revival of the series. This has seen the creation of new titles and special issues after a gap of over 20 years. The titles include mythology, history, biographies and folklore. She and her team created the six-volume series of Valmiki's Ramayana and also the recently released Mahadeva - Stories from the Shiva Purana. Right now she is engaged in creating a collection of stories that tell the mythology behind some of our rivers. Her other special interest is collating lesser known folktales from across India and putting them in the comics format for children, particularly stories from tribal communities.

Reena has published short stories in The Illustrated Weekly of India, Femina, Imprint, Caravan, and with Pratham Books and the Children's Book Trust. Two of her short stories have also been broadcast over the BBC Radio.



Amrita Ganguly

Amrita is a PGDMC, Print and Cyber Media from Symbiosis Institute of Mass Communications. She has rich and diverse experience across multiple contexts, geographies and institutions which include editorial and content work for leading media houses, running her own entrepreneurial venture, visiting several institutes as faculty and heading content management and communication strategy for Tata Steel in her immediately preceding engagement. She is also deeply committed to bringing people together for societal good and creating long -term value and legacy for society at large.

Dr. Amitava Mukherjee

Dr. Amitava Mukherjee has a first class academic record. Educated at the Ranchi University (India), higher studies commenced at Rice University, Houston(U.S.) and the University of South Florida, Tampa (US).

He has over 35 years' experience in developmental sector, especially in areas of poverty alleviation and hunger, livelihood development, institutional development, participatory project implementation, monitoring and evaluation and capacity building. He was instrumental in setting up SABHA, Bangalore, an institution for supporting rural artisans in India through better marketing and technical support. This had helped the rural artisan to get a fair price for their product and eliminate the rent-seeking intermediaries and at once make their product competitive and contemporary. He was also instrumental in setting up Action Aid India Society, New Delhi, to move Action Aid India from an euro-centric funded organization to a primarily Indian Funded organization. He is currently the Executive Director, Development Tracks RTC, a knowledge enterprise in Delhi.

Books-For Change, Bangalore has also received his strong support, to publish grey material which are critical for dissemination of good practices and "minority views" that would otherwise not be published by commercial publishers. He was one of the founders of Partners-In-Change, an institution for promoting good Corporate Social Responsibility, New-Delhi.

Meet The Samvaad Fellows 2017-19 here