

# VARTALEAP: EVERY YOUNG PERSON A JAGRIK AND EVERY SPACE NURTURING JAGRIKS

A YOUTH WORK VIKALP SANGAM | JAN 24-25, 2020



**From Left to Right:**

Row 1: Avinash Kumar, Ramnarayan Syag, Lokasish Saha, Nayan Patel, Satyendra Kumar, Smita Sen, Ranjan Bhattacharjee, Arjun Shekhar, Mohd Zeeshan, Aruna Pandey, Ravi Gulati, Piyush Ghosh, Basit Jamal, Shilpa Jhawar, Deepjyoti Sonu Brahma, Rajesh Singh, Sunish Jauhari, Rajkumari Michaelsamy, Harsh Shetty, Meenu Venkateswaran, Avinav Kumar, Aakash Sethi, Bharat Nayak, Aadya Singh, Shankar Venkateswaran, Bindi Dharia, Ingrid Srinath, Bappaditya Mukherjee, Hemakshi Meghani, Navendu Mishra, Rameez Alam

Row 2: Seema Shetty, Vijay Bhartia, Ankit Chhabra, Ritika Khunnah, Akshit Jain, Kejal Savla, Ashraf Patel, Kanika Sinha, Sinjini Mookherjee, Prashant Dubey, Manisha Gupta, Harsh Gupta

Retreats co-hosted by DKA Austria, AJWS, Ashoka Innovators for The Public, ComMutiny - The Youth Collective and Vikalp Sangam (<http://www.vikalpsangam.org/about/the-search-for-alternatives-key-aspects-and-principles/>)

# OVERVIEW AND OUTLINE

The two day retreat on 24th and 25th of January 2020, had stakeholders from Civil Society, Academic Institutions, Government, Media and UN Agencies coming together for a common vision of youth-centric development.

Total number of participants at the retreat: 65 (invitation based)

## vartaLeap Retreat Outline

*Every Youth a Jagrik, Every Space Nurturing Jagriks*

Jan 24-25, 2020 | TERI Retreat Centre

Faridabad - Gurgaon Rd, Opposite Pathways School, Gwal Pahari, Gurugram, Haryana 122102

### Objectives:

1. Finalising purpose, outcomes and being of the coalition
2. Developing forward plan
3. Launching of the coalition

Day 1: Jan 24, 2020; 9:30 AM to 9:00 PM		Day 2: Jan 25, 2020; 9:30 AM to 3:00 PM	
Session 1	<b>Being &amp; Doing</b> Goal & Soul of the coalition	Session 1	<b>Reflections</b>
Session 2	<b>Yin &amp; Yang of the young</b> Principles of the youth centric design	Session 2	<b>Leaping over the barricades - Open Space</b> What will propel us? What might stop us? Way forward
	Tea Break		
Session 3	<b>Aaj Tak</b> Same Paging		
Session 4a	<b>vartaLab Sign Up</b> Why and what of the experiments, innovations and special purpose vehicles in the program so far	Session 3	<b>Get Set</b> Bringing it all together
	Lunch	Session 4	<b>Launch of the coalition</b> Sailing Together
Session 4b	<b>vartaLab</b> How of the experiments, innovations and special purpose vehicles in the program	<b>Goodbyes and Gratitude</b> <b>Departure at 3 PM</b>	
	Tea Break		
Session 5	<b>Coalition constellation</b> Role taking and shining the way forward		
	Break		
Session 6	<b>If and Then stories</b> Mehfil - Our leadership conversations		
	Dinner		
Session 7	<b>Film Screening (Opt In)</b> A feature film deeply connected to the issues of young people today		



# SUMMARY

**Day 1: Jan 24, 2019**  
**Being and Doing**



We reached TERI on a bright Friday morning (Jan 24) as a diverse group of individuals and organizations and institutions from across the country bonded by a shared vision of every young person a Jagrik and every space nurturing Jagriks. We started with an art jamming session led by Ashraf with a team of artists (Smita, Zeeshan, Loka, Rajesh and Sunish) and a mirror dance session led by Arjun. Everyone expressed themselves through co-created dance and art to experience the being and doing of the coalition.

**Day 1: Jan 24, 2019**  
**Yin and Yang of the Young**



Next we went on a beautiful trip down memory lane as everyone was asked to look back on their childhood and share a significant experience or person that has shaped them. Each person chose a photo that represented this memory and shared the principle they culled out from this photo, within the groups that they were a part of. (These principles were later clustered into the FLOWING design principles which aligned with what emerged from the previous two vartaLeaps)



## Day 1: Jan 24, 2019 Aaj Tak - Same Paging



Sunish led a powerful discussion on FLOWING principles (design principle to create nurturing spaces for Jagriks) and brought everyone to the same page with all that has happened in the vartaLeap process so far. He talked about the innovations that the small groups have been working on from vartaLeap 1 in May and vartaLeap 2 in November last year. Then, in small groups, members contributed to objectives and purposes that they felt were unaddressed so far, to add to the larger picture of vartaLeap.

## Day 1: Jan 24, 2019 vartaLab



We then moved the focus to doing and invited new members to sign up to be a part of the groups that would be working on the innovations and special purpose vehicles that we have been working on in the vartaLeap process so far. The hosts for these groups shared exciting 2 min elevator pitches to take their ideas to the larger group who have not been a part of any vartaLab yet. The members then signed up for the innovations that they felt most connected to. The groups represented were Changemaking Punjab, Spaces - Samjho Toh&Samvidhan LIVE, Coalition Building, Narrative Building, and Jagrik Quotient. The session was facilitated by Meenu and Rameez.



## Day 1: Jan 24, 2019

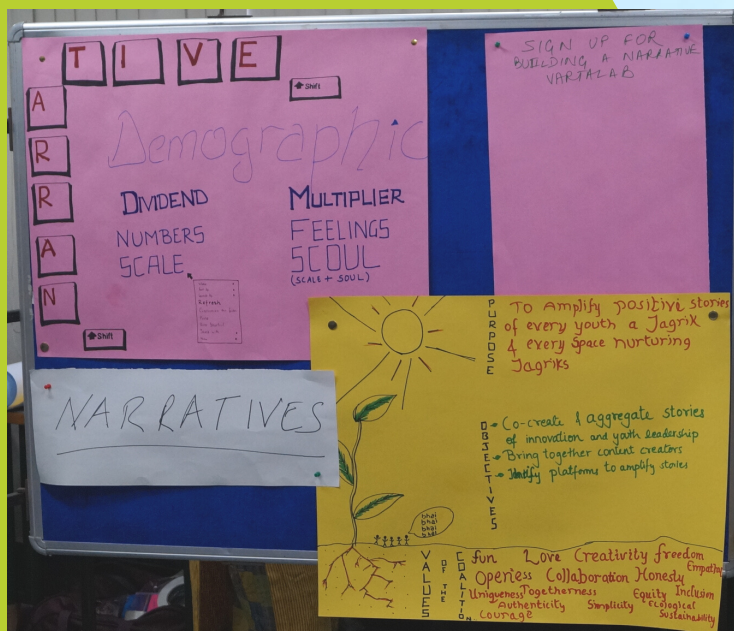
### vartaLab



Group co-hosts led the discussions in the smaller groups to brainstorm on the aspirations and a future plan of action for each group. These vartaLab sessions saw some amazing conversations where people from diverse backgrounds came together to take their innovations to SCOUL and analysed the major challenges that the group may face in future. A small governance mechanism for each group was also discussed. Each group then presented their discussions to the larger coalition.

### **Narrative Shift**

Narrative shift group is working to amplify positive stories of every youth a Jagrik and every space nurturing Jagriks to co-create and aggregate the stories of innovations and youth leadership from grassroot while looking at youth as a demographic multiplier. The narrative shift they are hoping to achieve is not just through creating new narratives but also by countering existing ones.



### **Members:**

Aakash Sethi, Anurag Hoon, Ajay Pandit, Abhishek Mazumdar, Akshit Jain, Kejal Savla, Kanika Sinha, Shilpa Jhawar, Shankar Venkateswaran, Bharat Nayak, Sohini Bhattacharya, Avinash Kumar

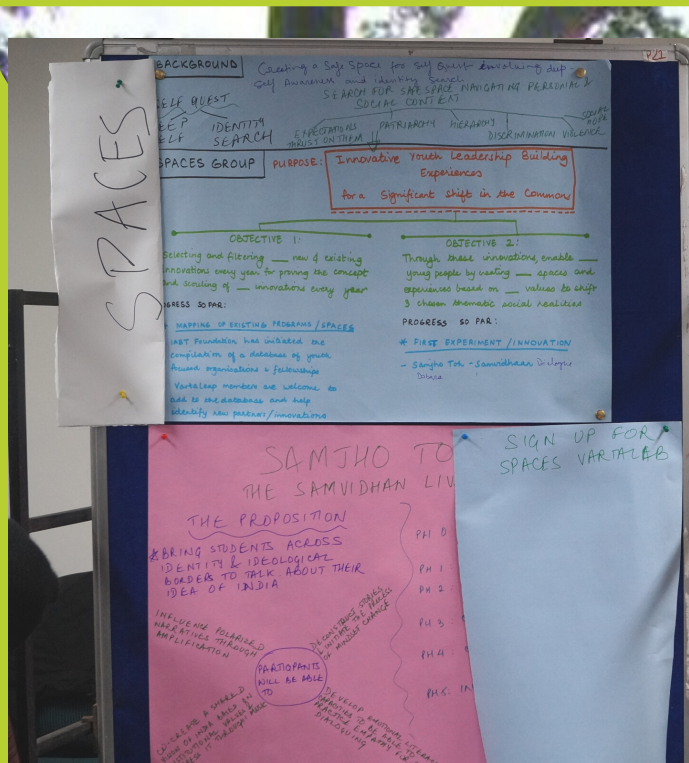
**Co-hosts:** Kejal Savla and Akshit Jain

**Co-conveners:** Kanika Sinha and Akshit Jain



## Youth Spaces

The spaces group is working on building innovative youth leadership experiences for a significant shift in the commons. They have started the first pilot with the Samjho Toh: The Samvidhan Live Dialogues.



### Members:

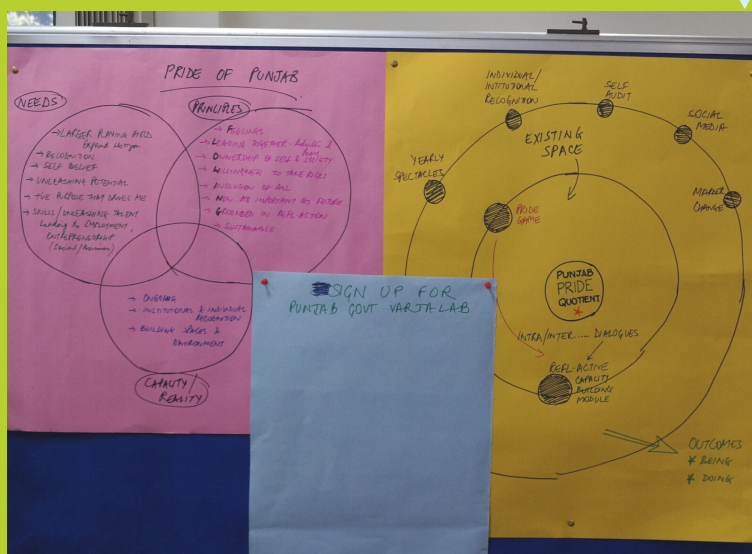
Ritika Khunnah, Kanika Sinha, Hemakshi Meghani, Indrani Sarkar, Bindi Dharia, Harsh Gupta, Nayan Patel, Rajkumari Michaelsamy, Satyendra Kumar, Lokashish Saha, Hemant Kumar, Ashraf Patel, Meenu Venkateswaran, Mohd Zeeshan, Aadya Singh

Co-hosts: Mohd Zeeshan and Aadya Singh

Co-conveners: Bindi Dharia and Aadya Singh

## Changemaking Punjab

Changemaking Punjab is triggering a movement of changemaking amongst youth. It aims to restore the pride of Punjab by building a movement of young people towards economic and social outcomes for themselves and their families.



### Members -

Venkatesh Srinivasan, Ravi Gulati, Ankit Chhabra, Piyush Ghosh, Ankit Jaiswal, Shipra Gupta, Sunish Jauhari, Smita Sen, Manpreet Kaur, Arjun Shekhar

Co-hosts: Sunish Jauhari and Ankit Chhabra

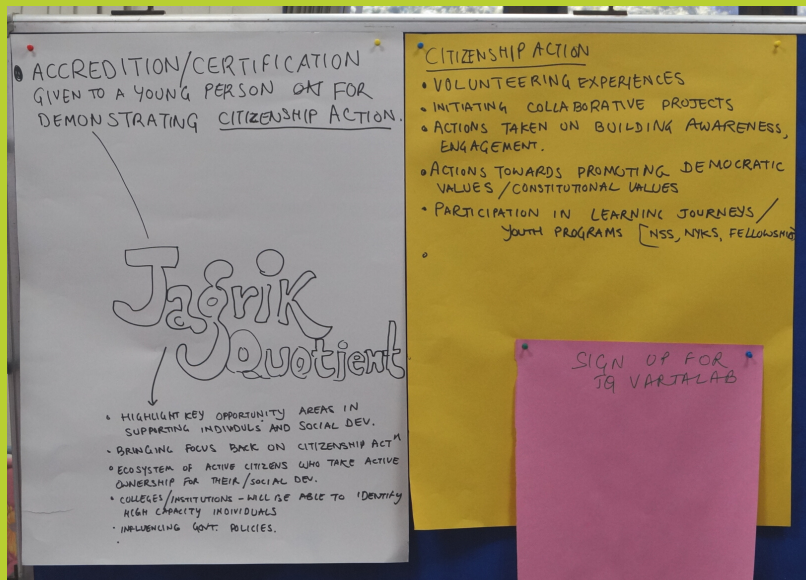
Co-conveners: Sunish Jauhari and Arjun Shekhar



## Jagrik Quotient

Jagrik quotient offers an aggregated score for different experiences that young people undertake in the social sector, including volunteering, skill sharing, leadership journeys etc.

This score becomes the gold standard for young people to aspire for and colleges/corporates to sift out great talent.



### Members -

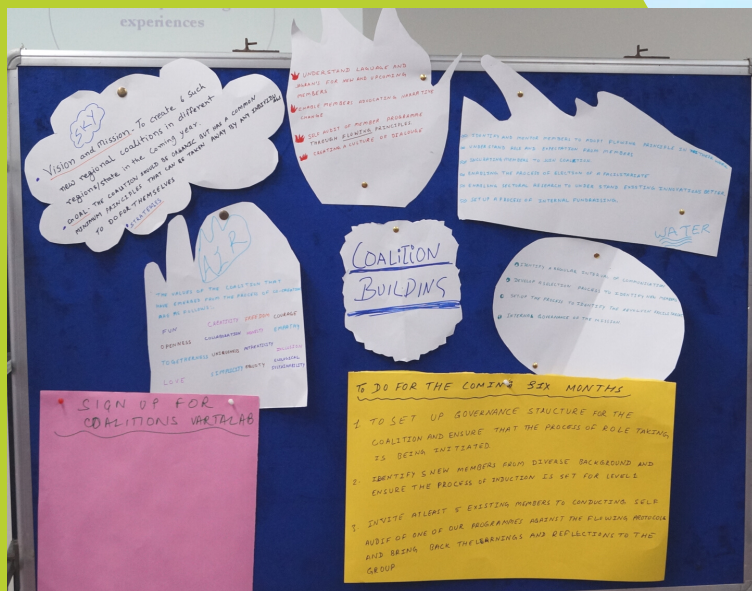
Seema, Tullika Mehra, Ranjan, Sukannya Lahn, Manisha Gupta, Deep Jyoti, Rajesh Meher, Rameez, Durba Ghose, Malavika, Ishani Sen, Priyanka Sarkar, Basit Jamal

Co-hosts: Rajesh Singh and Basit Jamal

Co-conveners: Rajesh Singh and Priyanka Sarkar

## Coalition Building

The coalition building group aims to set up regional coalitions across the country. These coalitions will be organic and will have common minimum design principles so that they can be championed by any individual who wishes to.



### Members -

Meenakshi Gupta, Ingrid Srinath, Aruna Pandey, Deepjyoti Sonu Brahma, Sinjini Mookherjee, Vijay Bhartia, Harsh Shetty, Navendu Mishra, Ramnarayan Syag, Priyanka Sarkar, Rachita Sinha, Sachin Gupta, Avinav Kumar, Tripti Vyas, Ashraf Patel

Co-hosts: Ramnarayan Syag and Navendu Mishra

Co-conveners: Priyanka Sarkar and Ashraf Patel



Day 1: Jan 24, 2019

## Coalition Constellation - Role Taking



Taking inspiration from the Seven Sisters (Ursa Minor) constellation, Arjun invited members to volunteer for various roles i.e., Innovators and Practitioners; Facilitariat and Board; and Contributors, Ambassadors and Allies. Members stood next to the stars that aligned the various roles to indicate their intentions. The sense of ownership in the room was really inspiring as everyone was filled with excitement for the future of coalition.



Achinta, Ankit Chhabra, Basit Jamal, Deepjyoti Sonu Brahma, Harsh Gupta, Kanika Sinha, Kejal Savla, Lokashish Saha, Meenakshi Gupta, Mohd Zeeshan, Prashant Dubey, Rajesh Nandan Singh Meher, Satyendra, Sinjini, Shilpa Jhawar, Smita Sen, Sohini Bhattacharya

Aadya Singh, Akaash Sethi, Akshit Jain, Bappaditya Mukherjee, Hemant Kumar, Ishani Sen, Manpreet Kaur, Meenu Venkateswaran, Navendu Mishra, Nayan Patel, Piyush Ghosh, Ramnarayan Syag, Rameez, Ravi Gulati, Ritika Khunnah, Shankar Venkateswaran, Ujwal Thakkar, Venkatesh Srinivasan, Vijay Bhartia, Sunish Jahauri

Aruna Pandey, Avinash Kumar, Avinav Kumar, Bharat Nayak, Bindi Dharia, Harsh Shetty, Hemakshi Meghani, Indrani Sarkar, Ingrid Srinath, Rajkumari Michaelsamy, Ranjan Bhattacharya, Seema, Sukannyaa Lahoon

Manisha Gupta, Piyush Ghosh, Aakash Sethi, Ashraf Patel, Arjun Shekhar, Shankar Venkateswaran, Aadya Singh, Ankit Chhabra, Ravi Gulati



**Day 1: Jan 24, 2019**

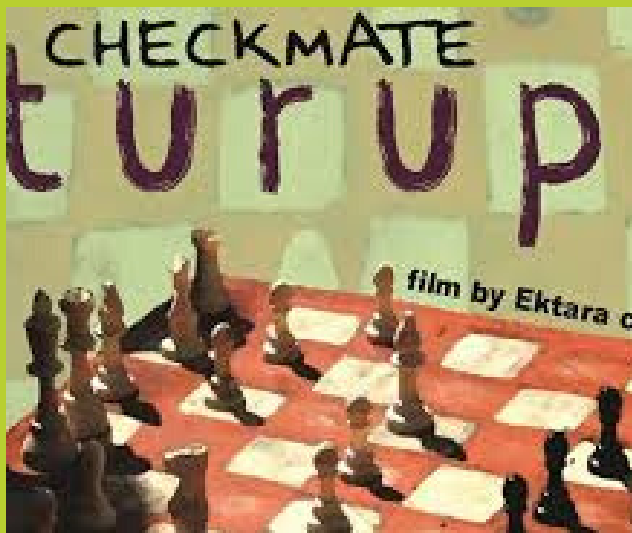
***If and Then Stories - The Evening Mehfil***



In two groups, facilitated by Kanika and Akshit respectively, we shared stories around If and Then questions to know each other better and deepen the relationship amongst the members of the coalition. The questions like 'If I hadn't got \_\_ space in my growing years, I wouldn't be who I am' and 'If I had one wish for the coalition, it would be \_\_', sparked some insightful conversations as the bond between the members deepened with the mehfil.

**Day 1: Jan 24, 2019**

***Film Screening***



Turup - a film by Ektara Collective was screened which tells the story of three women, in the backdrop of growing right wing fundamentalism. As the boundaries of religion, caste, class, gender become clearer and more visible, lives intersect and engage, throwing open opportunities to subvert and transcend these barriers. As people look for answers they also encounter new questions. A chess game which is always being played on a platform by the road becomes the metaphorical background to the playing out of these negotiations.

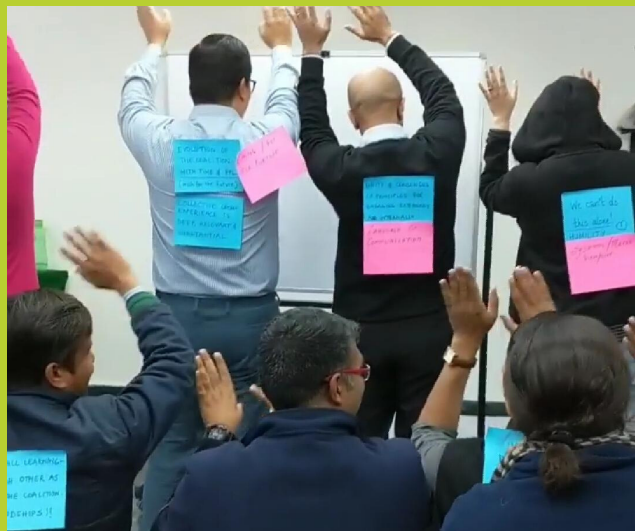


## Day 2: Jan 25, 2019 Reflections



Complementing our energies was the bright morning sunshine on the Day 2, and we started with a reflection session on how the previous day came together for all the members. Using a deck of playing cards, each member talked about their feelings, learnings, aspirations and insights. The session was facilitated beautifully by Ashraf and Meenu, and set the tone for the rest of the day.

## Day 2: Jan 25, 2019 Leaping over the barricades



Ashraf facilitated a session on reflecting on the celebrations and the possible challenges of the coalition as we grow and move forward. The purpose was to draw from our strengths to address what may hold us back from achieving our full potential as a coalition. The challenges were further addressed in the next session.



**Day 2: Jan 25, 2019**  
**Launch of coalition**



As we brought our 2 day journey to an end, a discussion on roles and challenges was led by Ashraf and Arjun to brainstorm on different ways to address the challenges. After an open discussion, it was agreed that we could segregate all decisions into Operations, People, Financial, Philosophy and Strategy; and have two subgroups will lead the process of decision making and it was recognised that one group would be responsible for strategy and philosophy and the other on Operations, People and Financial decisions.

Elections were held for the first group and these are the people that were finalized: Manisha Gupta, Piyush Ghosh, Aakash Sethi, Ashraf Patel, Arjun Shekhar, Shankar Venkateswaran, Aadya Singh, Ankit Chhabra and Ravi Gulati. The second group included all members of the facilitariat and board. It was agreed that the two groups would need to set up a process to communicate with each other regularly.

We then closed the vartaLeap retreat with hugs to everyone and a commitment from each one on one thing they will do for the coalition and one thing they are taking away from here to apply in their own work..



# LIST OF MEMBERS



S. No.	Name	Organization
1	Aadya Singh	Himalaya Collective, Vikalp Sangam, IABT, ComMutiny
2	Aakash Sethi	Quest Alliance, Ashoka
3	Achinta	Prantakatha, ComMutiny
4	Akshit Jain	ComMutiny, Youth Vikalp Sangam
5	Ankit Chhabra	PLYC, ComMutiny
6	Ankit Jaiswal	UNV
7	Arjun Shekhar	ComMutiny, Pravah
8	Aruna Pandey	ISDM
9	Ashraf Patel	ComMutiny, Pravah, Ashoka, Youth Vikalp Sangam
10	Avinash Gupta	Intellify
11	Avinash Kumar	Amnesty
12	Avinav Kumar	PHIA Foundation
13	Bappaditya Mukherjee	Prantakatha, ComMutiny
14	Basit Jamal	Brotherhood of Humanity Trust
15	Bharat Nayak	The Logical Indian, Vikalp Sangam
16	Bindi Dharia	CSIP, Ashoka University
17	Deepjyoti Sonu Brahma	Farm 2 Food, ComMutiny
18	Deepta	Hackergram
19	Harsh Gupta	IGSSS
20	Harsh Shetty	mLakshmi
21	Hemakshi Meghani	ISD
22	Hemant Kumar	Art of Play
23	Indrani Sarkar	UNICEF
24	Ingrid Srinath	CSIP, Ashoka University
25	Ishani Sen	Pravah
26	Kanika Sinha	ComMutiny, Youth Vikalp Sangam
27	Kejal Savla	Vikalp, BRM, ComMutiny, Youth Vikalp Sangam
28	Lokashish Saha	ComMutiny, Vikalp Sangam
29	Manisha Gupta	Startup India
30	Manpreet Kaur	Gandhi Fellowship
31	Meenakshi Gupta	Goonj
32	Meenu Venkateswaran	ComMutiny, Pravah

S. No.	Name	Organization
33	Mohd Zeeshan	ComMutiny, Yeh Ek Soch, Vikalp Sangam
34	Naman Goel	ComMutiny
35	Navendu Mishra	Agrini, Vikalp, ComMutiny
36	Nayan Patel	Jan Vikas
37	Piyush Ghosh	The Optimist Citizen, ComMutiny
38	Prashant Dubey	Awaaj
39	Rajesh Meher	ComMutiny
40	Rajkumari Michaelsamy	Amnesty
41	Rameez Alam	Ashoka
42	Ramnarayan Syag	Jan Sahas, ComMutiny
43	Ranjan Bhattacharya	PHIA Foundation
44	Ravi Gulati	ComMutiny
45	Ritika Khunnah	Pravah
46	Sachin Sachdeva	Phf
47	Satyendra Kumar	CSEI, ComMutiny
48	Seema	mLakshmi
49	Shailendra Sharma	Dlehi govt, Pratham
50	Shankar Venkateshwaran	Yuva SHakti
51	Shilpa Jhawar	Anhad Pravah, ComMutiny
52	Sinjini Mookherjee	CYDA
53	Sivakumar Babu	RGNIYD
54	Smita Sen	Rupantaran, ComMutiny
55	Sohini Bhattacharya	Breakthrough
56	Souvik Saha	People For Change
57	Sukannyaa Lahon	Pravah
58	Sunish Jauhari	Ashoka
59	Tripti Vyas	Kaivalya Foundation
60	Tulika Mehra	NIIT Foundation
61	Ujwal Thakar	ComMutiny
62	Venkatesh Srinivassan	UNFPA
63	Vijay Bhartia	Vikalp Sangam, Jai Jagat



# CO-VOYAGERS

Indian School of Democracy  
Ashoka University Farm 2 Food  
Amnesty Agrini  
The Optimist Citizen  
You Can Foundation Jan Sahas  
People For Change  
PHIA Foundation Awaaj  
RGNIYD Startup India  
Yeh Ek Soch Foundation  
Quest Alliance  
Prantakatha Pratham Pravah MKSS Phf Goonjian  
Prantakatha Pratham Pravah PLYC Rupantaran UNV  
Yeh Ek Soch Foundation  
NIIT Foundation  
Yeh Ek Soch Foundation  
UNICEF Akshara ISDM  
Art of Play  
Jai Jagat  
IGSSS  
ComMutiny  
Synergy Sansthan  
Breakthrough  
Himalaya Collective  
CYDA  
Anhad Pravah  
Ambedkar University  
Gandhi Fellowship  
India and Bharat Together  
Ashoka Innovators for Public  
Blue Ribbon Movement  
The Logical Indian  
Yuva Shakti  
CSEI



# CELEBRATIONS

Common purpose of the coalition

Openness and flexibility

Experience, capacities and strength of the members of the coalition

Space for risk, co-creation and experimentation



# CHALLENGES

Language/articulation of purpose and narrative

Evolving a governance structure that will act as a glue for the coalition

Remaining relevant and adaptable to the future

Lack of resources and diversity

Inclusion and efficiency paradox

Maintaining a culture of dialogue



# PLAN OF ACTION FOR SMALL GROUPS



## Coalition Building

- To set governance structure for the coalition and ensure that the process of role taking is initiated
- Invite atleast 5 existing members to conduct self audit of one of our programmes against the flowing protocols

## Youth Spaces

- Map existing innovations from across the country and bring them to the coalition
- Design Samjho Toh - The Samvidhan Live Dialogues in atleast 3 locations in next 3 months using FLOWING design principles

## Jagrik Quotient

- Share the note with the coalition by Feb end
- Have a product ready by April

## Narrative Shift:

- Develop a common language/vocabulary for youth centric development
- Create and aggregate 100+ stories from the coalition in next 3 months

## Changemaking Punjab

- Finalize long term proposal and engage key stakeholders in the process
- Launch the program on Apr 13 (Baisakhi)

# PROTOCOLS OF THE NEW NORM

**F** - Feelings of youth must be honored; experience must fulfill a visceral need of young people

**L** - Leadership capacities must be built through co-leading of the space with adults

**O** - Ownership of common spaces is inspired to be seen as taken as self is interdependent with society

**W** - Willingness to take entrepreneurial risks (in a sand box) is fostered - balancing disruption with continuity

**I** - Inclusion of all youth across caste, class, gender and religion is ensured

**N** - Now is seen as important as the future - the space rides on the zeitgeist of the time even as it creates new trends

**G** - Grounded in learning through action - refl-Action



# VALUES OF THE COALITION

These values came out of the vartaLeap retreat held in November 2019

Honesty

Empathy

Authenticity

Inclusion

Freedom

Courage

Fun

Creativity

Openness

Collaboration

Togetherness

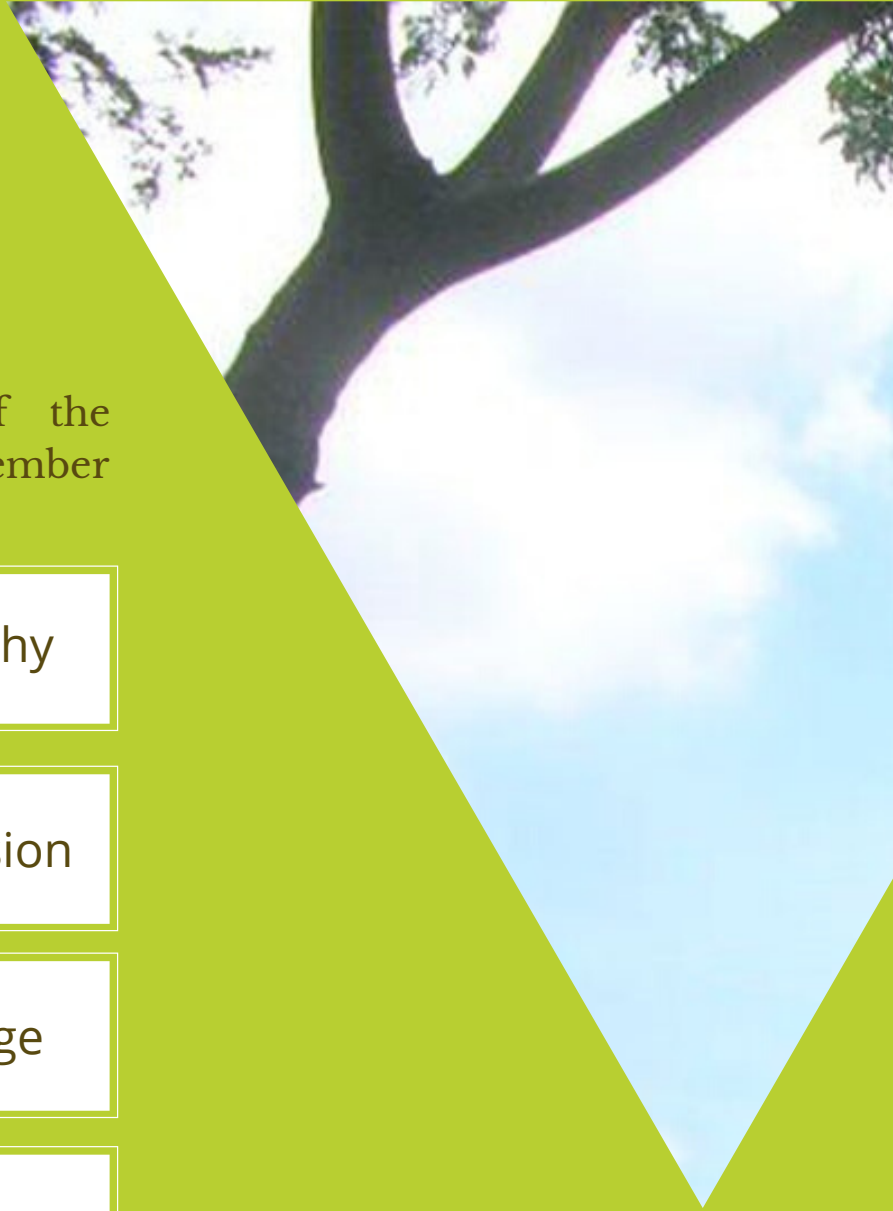
Uniqueness

Love

Simplicity

Equity

Ecological  
Sustainability



# THANK YOU TERI RETREAT CENTRE



# THANK YOU TO OUR DOCUMENTATION TEAM

We would like to acknowledge our documentation team for their support. This report is prepared using the minutes and pictures that have been kept during the retreat.

Thank you Kanika, Akshit, Naman, Ashraf, Meenu and Abhishri

The report contains a summary and the future plan of action for the coalition.