



# SKILL वार्ता

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF MGNF

ISSUE NO. : MGNFIIML01

MARCH 2022

4 STATES

115 FELLOWS

Academic Module 1  
Completed

District Module 1  
Completed

Academic Module 2  
Ongoing

## DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

I am glad to launch the first edition of Skillवार्ता , a quarterly newsletter of Mahatma Gandhi National Fellowship (MGNF) at IIM Lucknow. IIM Lucknow partnered with the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) in this novel programme to engage youth in transforming the skill landscape at the district level. The endeavour aims for social upliftment by enabling skill education and livelihood at the grassroot level, in line with the vision of IIM Lucknow. We are excited to see the changes in three months of MGNF so far and hope to see more transformation in this space in the next two years. This launch on the eve of International Women's Day becomes even more important as more than forty women fellows have embarked upon some of the most transforming initiatives in the district as a part of this programme.

This newsletter is an important initiative in the direction of information dissemination by sharing the activities, best practices, and success stories on a periodic basis. I am also proud that the initiative is run by our fellows. My best wishes to the Skillवार्ता team. I look forward to its success.



PROF. ARCHANA SHUKLA  
DIRECTOR, IIM LUCKNOW

## PROGRAMME DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Today as we are launching the first edition of Skillवार्ता, a quarterly newsletter of MGNF, we take this moment to thank all our co-partners for their continuous support towards realizing the objective of this ambitious fellowship programme. The unique blend of the programme with academic module and district immersion is instrumental in not only equipping fellows with the principles of management, economics, and policy framework but also gives them a hands-on experience of implementing these principles on the ground.

As part of the programme at IIM Lucknow, 115 fellows are deployed in various districts of Assam, Uttar Pradesh, Mizoram, and Himachal Pradesh and conceptualizing and initiating some of the most interesting and locally relevant initiatives, including strengthening of District Skill Committees. The programme in its last three months has witnessed some very encouraging initiatives on the ground and all this has been possible with the continuous support from State Skill Development Missions, District Officials, the MGNF team, and most importantly our young and bright fellows.

Skillवार्ता is our effort to document and highlight some of these initiatives at the district level while at the same time emphasizing continuous academic support provided by IIM Lucknow towards their holistic and integrated development. Another interesting section is 'Our Champion Fellows' which is our way of recognizing and appreciating the sheer effort of our fellows in transforming the skill landscape even in the most simple and small steps.

I once again thank all our partners for ensuring effective implementation of the programme on the ground. Let's resolve to build on more effective collaborations towards realizing the vision of Skill India and MGNF in particular.



PROF. AJAY GARG  
PROGRAMME DIRECTOR-MGNF  
IIM LUCKNOW



PROF. KSHITIJ AWASTHI  
PROGRAMME DIRECTOR-MGNF  
IIM LUCKNOW

# FACTSHEET

STATES

Assam  
(12)

Barpeta  
Dhemaji  
Dibrugarh  
Dima Haso  
Hailakandi  
Jorhat and others

Mizoram  
(11)

Lawngtlai  
Lunglei  
Mamit  
Saiha  
Serchhip  
Aizawl  
Champhai  
Hnahthial  
Kolasib and others

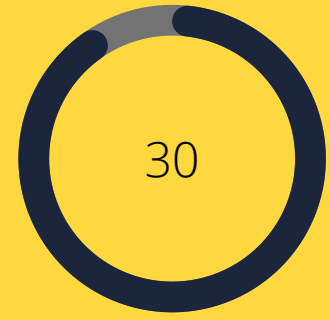
Uttar Pradesh  
(41)

Agra  
Amethi  
Barabanki  
Bhadohi  
Bijnor  
Bulandshahar  
Chitrakoot  
Buddha Nagar  
Gonda  
Jalaun  
Kannauj  
Kasganj  
Kheri  
Lalitpur  
Mahoba  
Moradabad  
Prayagraj  
Raebareli  
Sambhal  
Shravasti  
Siddharthnagar  
Sitapur  
Sultanpur  
Pratapgarh  
Kanpur and others

Himachal Pradesh  
(5)

Chamba  
Kullu and others

**No. of DSC meetings conducted  
(Nov 2021 - Feb 2022)**



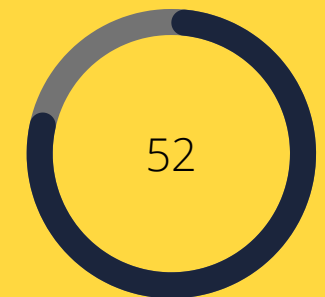
Assam



Himachal Pradesh



Mizoram



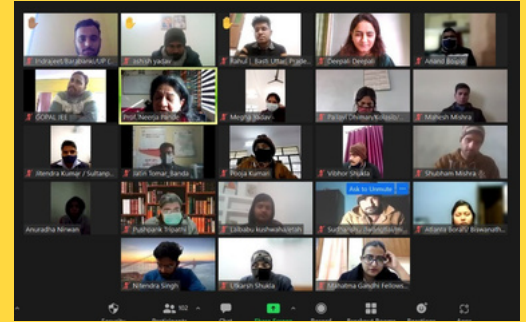
Uttar Pradesh

**Registration of DSC on DISPAK**

# ACTIVITY SNAPSHOT

## ACADEMIC SUPPORT

- a) Prof. Neerja Pande, faculty IIM Lucknow conducted an interactive session with MGN Fellows on essentials of report writing and elements of critical thinking.
- b) A feedback session with fellows was conducted by Prof. Ajay Garg and Prof. Kshitij Awasthi, Programme Directors, MGNF, IIM Lucknow on the monthly essays submitted with special emphasis on correct citation and referencing.



## STATE ENGAGEMENT

- a) IIM Lucknow is continuously engaging with State Skill Development Missions and District Officials for effective implementation of programme on ground.
- b) Interactive orientation sessions organised by SSDMs of all four States (Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Mizoram and Uttar Pradesh ) with fellows and district officials of their respective States to discuss the key aspects of the program and specific roles and responsibilities of various stakeholders in ensuring the effective engagement of fellows.



## SPECIAL INITIATIVES

- a) Interactive session of all fellows at IIM Lucknow with Fellows from Phase 1 for sharing of experiences and learnings
- b) A Monitoring Framework with key indicators both for the Academic Module and District Immersion module of the programme has been designed to ensure quality assurance in the programme management.
- c) Creation of buddy network of fellows where the fellows are paired (based on proximity of districts) with each other to promote partnership, cooperation and collaboration.
- d) Interaction with fellows from aspirational districts to create awareness on aspirational districts programme by NITI Aayog and role that the fellows can play in improving the skill related indicators.
- e) An online Gender Sensitisation Workshop titled "Creating Respectable Workplaces for all Individuals" conducted for fellows

## MENTAL HEALTH

Series of sessions being conducted with fellows on mental health and Stress Management . Yourdost, an online counselling, and emotional support platform has been onboarded to ensure an institutionalized and continued counselling support for the Fellows.

# TRANSFORMING DISTRICT SKILL LANDSCAPE

## UTTAR PRADESH

1. Rozgar melas organized in number of districts (more than 1000 candidates offered placement).
2. Marketing of Moringa & products in collaboration with reputed academic institutions (**Shravasti, UP**)
3. Innovative voter awareness campaign on Bollywood dialogues. A similar campaign is now being designed on skill development (**Barabanki**)
4. Marketing of SHG Products (**Agra**)



## ASSAM

1. Designing of digital dashboard cum marketing platform for the district administration to keep a track of the skilling initiatives in the district (**Dibrugarh**)
2. Creating a Database for active SHGs in the district (**Karbi Anglong**)
3. Facilitating Formation of an FPO in Malivita and Patabari villages (**Chirang, Assam**)
4. Skill exhibition at the Kumar Bhaskar Varma Sanskrit and Ancient Studies University. (**Nalbari**)



## MIZORAM

1. Engaging with ITI for addressing Manpower requirement in Solar Power Plant (**Khawzawl**)
2. Creating awareness for shifting to Muga Silk Cultivation and scope for establishing wineries (**Khawzawl And Champhai**)
3. Digital Literacy for senior secondary students and SHGs working in soap making ,amla handicrafts (**Mamit**)



## HIMACHAL PRADESH

1. Capacity building of SHGs and marketing linkages of their products (**Sirmaur, Kangra and Kinnaur**)
2. Initiating of tourism campaign #kamalkullu (**Kullu**)
3. Counselling Programme for college students and ITI trainees (**Kangra and Solan**)
4. Digital Literacy and Marketing of SHG products (**Shimla**)
5. Planning of Lahaul's famous Snow festival (**Lahaul & Spiti**)



## OUR FELLOW CHAMPIONS

"During the district immersion(I) in the toughest months of Lahaul & Spiti; where water in the pipelines freezes, transportation ceases, electricity disconnects and life comes to a halt; I have learned and lived perseverance. It would not have been possible without the support of my co-fellows, mentor, locals, the SRA and whole IIM Lucknow team who have not only guided and motivated me, but also taught me to have fun while being in the process. My on-ground experience has been impeccable and I hope to engross all the learnings from the programme in real life. I look forward to more vital experiences in coming months."

VAISHALI THAKUR, LAHAUL & SPITI, HIMACHAL PRADESH



"It has been a wonderful experience working with the district administration, it is full of new challenges and experiences. Also, the most memorable part of my District Immersion was the village immersion program; where I applied SWOT analysis to do panchayat based Skill mapping and gap analysis."

VIBHOR SHUKLA, CHITRAKOOT, UTTAR PRADESH



## MGNF EDITORIAL TEAM

Deepali Raina, Program Manager, MGNF, IIM Lucknow

Sandeep Machani, SRA, Himachal Pradesh

Devdarshan Chetia, Tinsukia, Assam

Indrajeet Kumar, Barabanki, Uttar Pradesh

Suruchi Singh, Kaushambi, Uttar Pradesh

Neesha Kshetry, Kullu, Himachal Pradesh

Gayatri Khurana, Mamit, Mizoram

Anushka Vijayvergiya, South Salmara-Mankachar, Assam

For further queries, please write us at:  
[mgnf@iiml.ac.in](mailto:mgnf@iiml.ac.in)