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# ANTS



## NEWSLETTER FROM the ant

OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2017

HOPE THE NEW YEAR GIVES YOU ALL THE JOY. AS WE STEP INTO THE YEAR 2018, HERE IS A BRIEF OF WHAT WE WERE UPTO IN THE PAST 3 MONTHS. HAPPY READING!

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## ➔ Visit of Ultimate Players Association members



Manick and his group of interns from Ultimate Players Association of India - UPAI reached the ant to explore Ultimate Frisbee options in the north-east.

But they hadn't expected to see more than 3000 kids and youth from this corner part of Assam, already playing the game for 3 years now. While the members shared some professional hacks, the children shared their dreams of participating in bigger tournaments. We hope this partnership create more opportunities and learning for our children in the game of Ultimate Frisbee.

## ➔ Disability day observance



One of the main challenge that we had faced as an organization is our inability to incorporate disabled people in our workforce.

As a first step to reprove ourselves, International day for people with Disability was observed both at the campus and in project areas. We were given a taste of our ignorance towards disability by our guest speaker Mr. Arman Ali, a disability rights activist.

In the project areas too, various activities were done with children and youth to sensitize on the issue of inclusion of people with disability.

## ➔ Fortnightly campaign against domestic violence



Every year November 25 – December 10, our women's team gets super busy. Campaigns get lined up day after day to mark 'International Day on Elimination of Violence against Women and girls'.

This year the campaign was more special, with the onset of our project 'Stop Domestic Violence' aka Avahan. The focus was more on interactive campaigning, with open meetings, street plays, and opinion polls, making communication a two-way street.

# 17TH BIRTHDAY IN LUCKNOW



On October 13, 2000, the ant came into being, with a mandate to bring about holistic development in the Chirang district. 17 years later, we had grown into a 100+ team, facing various challenges, on a daily basis.

Following our anniversary traditions, this year we had our retreat in the city of Nawabs – Lucknow. Apart from celebration, it was time to reflect on ourselves, as individual ants. When reflections seemed to die down, inspiration came in the form of few fiery activists.



Our morning dose came from women of Vanganaga, who showed us what 'women empowerment' means in the drought-ridden lanes of villages in UP. In the evening, Arundhati Dhuru from Hamsafar and Sandeep Pandey of Asha Foundation, both based in Lucknow, shared with us their motivational journey of social activism. Later, the day ended with a sumptuous dinner hosted by Sanatkada, a beautiful crafts shop entirely run by women.

### ➔ From drop-out to a topper – Story of Ransai:



When Ransai Basumatary joined the CDC under project Shiksha in 2014, he was a nightmare for the teachers as well as his parents. Disinterested in studies, Ransai was in the verge of dropping out.

Little did we know three years later, he would emerge a topper in the Challenge Test conducted in 17 villages around Kuklung cluster. Studying in Class 6, he managed to get a total of 818 out of 1000 marks, making all of us proud.

### ➔ District Consultation meeting



We drew curtains for the pilot phase of 'Caring 4 Rights' project by December. For about a year, the project managed to build active citizenry in conflict affected villages by building Sahayak Manch, whose members would fight for their rights.

On 23rd December, we conducted a consultation meeting to present our findings and gaps in various schemes like MNREGA, RTE to the concerned government officials.

Though NRC played a havoc in our attempts to get many officials to the meeting, we were happy to present our findings at least to the District Commissioner.

As a token for our efforts, two officials from Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan managed to attend the meeting at the last minute. From then on, the meeting took a pleasing turn, as the officials were directly answering to the queries put forth by the Manch members..

### ➔ Other Happenings at the ant

- A new project MITA – Mental Illness Treatment in Assam, sees the light this year, beginning mental camps at two partner NGOs.
- IDeA is all set to release its new project called 'Girl Icon'. Funds and support will be appreciated. To contribute click here
- Pilot phase of Project Dolphin gets a lease with a 6-month bridge project.
- Project Bigyan is gearing up for its District level Science Mela, in attendance of government officials.