

This is Swaraj University's first e-Newsletter.
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A space to know oneself. A space to grow. A space to experiment.

A space to do what YOU are really passionate about.

A space to stumble and fall, make mistakes.

A space to make friends. A space to understand diversity, community and democracy.

A space to question, and be questioned.

*A space to DO SOMETHING, for the environment, for society, for one's community,
for oneself!*

Swaraj University completes one year!

It's been a year since we at Swaraj University took our first steps together in Udaipur. And as we celebrate our first anniversary, we look back at the excitement, co-creation,

friendship, deep questioning, emotional healing, unfolding of self, intense dialogues, discoveries, experiments, mistakes and learning, and much, much more that has been part of the first year of being 'Swaraj University'!

To watch a photo-collage of our adventures through the first year, click [here](#).



Khoji Reflections

Rahul has written a memoir about his [journey in solitude to Punjab](#)

Punjab was never my destination. It just happened to be. All I wanted was to leave home and visit a place unplanned with less expense possible. I had made up my mind to fly away.

The train had started and so had my journey.



Monsoon Updates

New Khoji Cohort:

Swaraj University just started afresh with a new batch of fifteen khojis (or 'seekers'), who are completing their first Khoji Meet. These enthusiastic new folks are from all corners of India, from Orissa to Konkan, from Jammu to Chennai! They were greeted on the Tapovan campus (an organic farm outside Udaipur City, India) with gobar (cow dung) facials.

Sakhi writes about her forays into feminism and de-mystifying gender roles

If one wants to be a 'successful woman' of today, not only does one need to have a glittering career but one must also be a good wife and a devoted mother, balancing demanding work routines with household and children-related duties with apparent ease. Strangely, the same formula doesn't apply for being a successful man!

Amit writes his experience of being a part of a unique 'Cycle Yatra' across the villages of Rajasthan

Two hours of cycling and one of us (Harshita) fell down while coming down the slope. We did not have any medicine and so found some local herb (leaves), crushed them and applied on the wound. Despite the hurt she was enthusiastic to complete the journey. She remained an inspiration for all of us throughout the journey.

Saud from the first batch, who is interning with Swaraj U, is being a great help around the campus. Check out some campus adventures on facebook!

Khojis Graduating:

Two of our much-loved khojis from the first batch have completed their one-year course in 'Self, Society and Sustainability' and are 'graduating' from Swaraj U.

Vijay has already started work with ASHA (Alliance for Sustainable and Holistic Agriculture) after participating and helping in their initiative, the Kisan Swaraj Yatra. He is presently working on making people aware of the hazards of genetically modified seeds and promoting local seed-banks.

Rama, who was learning the art of film-making, has already made two movies, one about Swaraj U and the other, 'Jazbaa', a short film about a woman autorickshaw driver that won the first

Sachi has captured various interesting frames for his on-going explorations in [photography](#)

prize in the New York Women's Film Festival.

We wish them good luck in their journey ahead and hope they'll always be connected to our khoji cohort!



At the guru's abode

Anant spent some time at [Solitude Farm](#) in Auroville, learning (by doing!) various techniques of natural farming and what's important in a farm and community.

Rahul is presently with [Bhoomi Magazine](#) in



Dream Initiatives

Harshita has started a Healing Centre in her hometown of Benaras. She is inviting healers practicing Pranic Healing and other forms of Energy Healing to the Centre to engage with and involve the local people to create a healthy and thriving



Upcoming Events by Khojis

Javed is organising a [Naya Swaraj Cycle Yatra](#) to highlight the importance and relevance of organic farming and sustainability as against the growing use of fossil fuels and GM seeds. The cycle rally will start from

Bangalore, learning the whats and hows of the publishing world and doing his bit of writing about the environment and sustainability issues.

Kishan has just bagged a one month mentorship with NDTV, New Delhi, after assisting them in Udaipur on a feature they did about Homeschoolers in India.

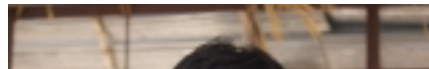
Gyaneshwar is developing his film-making skills with Pravin Pagare, a film-maker in Nashik. Gyan is also video-documenting the compost-bin project at [EarthCare Designs](#).

Ravi is interning with Yuva, Mumbai, working with children and on the

space.

Jayesh is working on starting a new café in Udaipur, where young people can meet, interact, eat healthy and organically grown food and explore their creativity and passions. He's currently scouring the city for a suitable space and meeting people for guidance, practical wisdom and inspiration.

Kishan is working on an e-waste project with Nokia, hoping to collect discarded cell-phones and other accessories. To know more, check out this Youtube video [here](#).



rally will start from Sewagram in the Vidharbha region of Maharashtra and will proceed over 30 days to Mumbai over a distance of 850 kilometres.

Santosh, along with Vishal, Azeer and Rachana (the Oasis Game team) is organising an [Oasis Game](#) in Dhampur, UP at the Pushpniketan School. Check out the video of the first Oasis Game in India, organised by the Swapathgami Network in Udaipur, over [here](#).

Jayesh is initiating a 'Freedom Walk' in his home city of Ahmedabad on 14th August, a day before Independence Day to honour the

way to realise his dream of starting a creative learning space for children.

Vikas is passionate about Ayurveda and Natural Healing practices, and has worked with Dr. Bharat Shah's Naturopathy Centre in Baroda.

Sachin is working with Dr. Sathe in Kalam, a small town near Wardha, learning to make handmade paper and associated products.

Zain is learning the art of compassion and spirit of 'sewa', as he cares for his parents who are both currently suffering from ill-health. We wish his family a speedy



Healing the Diploma Disease

Help us create a global database of organisations, companies and groups who are willing to give a chance to people without formal diplomas or degrees, but tons of life experience and motivation!

Suggest/recommend any such places or groups! Click [here](#) for more

Day, to honour the freedom fighters of Ahmedabad. The walkers will go to each freedom fighter's places of residence or memorials, sharing and hearing stories about the Independence Struggle.



We invite you to join us on our journey towards a different but real education, and a more sustainable society! Support us by gifting books or films for the library, or old laptops for the media resource centre, or come visit us and share your skills or

recovery.

information.

wisdom. Financial contributions to support scholarships for khojis are also welcome.

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Swaraj University is India's first university dedicated to regenerating local cultures, local economies and local ecologies. We believe in Self-Design Learning, or re-claiming one's right and responsibility towards one's own learning, and for the benefit of one's community and environment. Swaraj University offers a one year course on Self, Society and Sustainability and two year course on Green Entrepreneurship.

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