



SWANITI INITIATIVE



Building a Vibrant,
Inclusive and
Better India

ABOUT US



Swaniti Initiative is an apolitical organization that focuses on developing sustainable solutions by bringing together talented and passionate youth to work in the grassroots India with the support of progressive leadership.

Even though, India has a tremendous 'demographic advantage' with over two-thirds of the population being of working age, the avenues to work with political leaders and governments remains limited. Youth are primarily reliant on networking through youth wings or informal connections to connect with political leaders. Similarly, politicians have to rely on party workers for constituency level support and have limited or no access to large segments of talented and passionate youth population who are interested in becoming a part of the Indian governance system, but are not involved directly in politics.

Swaniti Initiative is the only civil society organization that works to connect youth to the political leadership and governments in an effort to strengthen governance in India.

Swaniti Initiative works with political leaders to identify issues they are facing in their constituency and recruits dynamic youth to work with them, to overcome these challenges. The Fellows focus both on strategy and implementation. To find out more please visit our Fellowship page.

Swaniti also hosts discussion forums where youth have the opportunity to voice their thoughts and ideas about governance and development in India while also networking with thought leaders and peers. This creates an additional opportunity for youth to connect with polity and governance in India.

FELLOWSHIP



The Swaniti Fellowships are targeted towards talented youth who aspire to be change makers by devising solutions to development challenges in collaboration with progressive leaders

The Swaniti Fellowships aims to engage youth in governance by launching them in constituency development engagements. Fellows will work directly with Members of Parliaments, Members of Legislative Assembly or Cabinet Ministers on specific engagements. The topic of the engagement will range through the entire spectrum of governance.

Fellows will work on an issue identified by the client (MP, MLA, Cabinet minister) and will be expected to provide a final deliverable to the client. In order to conduct research, gather data or implement programs, Fellows are expected to travel within and outside the constituency to interact with constituency level stakeholders and external organizations. In order to support the work of Fellows, we also assign Swaniti Mentors, who provide guidance and support to Fellows, throughout the engagement. Mentors are field experts who bring with them resources to better guide the engagement.

The pilot for Swaniti Fellowship was launched at Harvard University in 2009 with the support of the National Youth Congress (NYC) and Bharatiya Janta Party (BJP). The tremendous feedback from applicants and responses from Members of Parliament led to the creation of a structured Fellowship program, wherein youth were expected to travel to constituencies and work on grassroots issues with the support of political leaders.

Swaniti Fellows are nurtured through the course of the program to become leaders in polity and governance and contribute significantly to the development of India.

FELLOWSHIP



The Ideal Candidate

Who are we looking for?

Swaniti is looking for young, passionate and motivated individuals, who demonstrate leadership and a desire to make a difference. We recognize that people come from different backgrounds and therefore show these skills through different experiences. However we believe that there are some core qualities we seek. We look for individuals with:

- Passion for making a difference
- Understanding of the complex political and social terrain
- Exceptional analytical and organizational skills
- Willingness to work in different environments
- Strong communication skills
- Creative ideas and resolutions

Through our application we also seek evidence for professionalism and integrity.

FELLOWSHIP



Basic Application Requirements

Young professionals and graduate school students are welcome to apply for Swaniti Fellowships.

Undergraduate Requirements

Applicants are expected to complete at least an undergraduate degree (Bachelor's or equivalent) from an accredited college or University prior to applying for the Swaniti Initiative.

Academic and Professional Standing

Swaniti will request to review your academic and professional standing through transcripts and references. It is important that you are prepared with each prior to applying for the Fellowships.

Indian National/Foreign National Status

Swaniti accepts 1.) Indian Citizens 2.) Foreign national of Indian origins However, foreign applicants must have arranged appropriate documentation to work in India for the Fellowship.

Commitment and Location

All Fellows must be committed to working in assigned locations for the duration of their Fellowships. Fellows will be considered staff members of their respective teams and must abide by policies in the respective environments.

Age Limit

Since Swaniti is targeted towards youth; all applicants must be under the age of 35 at the time of submitting their application.

FELLOWSHIP



Selection Process

The Fellowship Selection Process is very competitive and requires Fellows to submit an application and go through interview(s).

In preparation for your interview, it is recommended that you:

Know Yourself

- Evaluate your strengths, weaknesses, skills, interests, values and goals and how it links to the Swaniti Fellowship.
- Identify the skills or experiences that you can bring to the Fellowship that will differentiate you from other applicants.

Know Swaniti

- Spend time assessing Swaniti and our work through various channels including the website.
- Understand the objective of the initiative and seek clarifications during the interview.

Know Your Engagement

- Understand your role as Swaniti Fellow.
- Research about the client, the context behind the engagement and think through structuring solutions to the problem at hand.

FELLOWSHIP



On the Field

Prior to the start of an engagement, Swaniti Fellows will be trained to prepare for the engagement. They will also be expected to connect with the client a few weeks before the start date to better understand the expectations of the engagement. Typically, a Fellow will be required to be in the 'field' (constituency) shortly after the first meetings and is expected to immerse himself/herself within a few days and understand the core issues. Not all Fellowship engagements will require the Fellows to spend their entire engagement duration in the field. Fellows can be expected to provide recommendations to clients on how to strengthen an existing program and/or implement a new or existing program effectively.

A Fellow's range of activity may include (but is not limited) to the following:

- Conducting ground level research on specific challenges
- Developing recommendations on how to overcome bottlenecks/issues being faced
- Creating programs to resolve the challenge
- Implementing new programs suggested as a part of the recommendations
- Executing existing programs more effectively

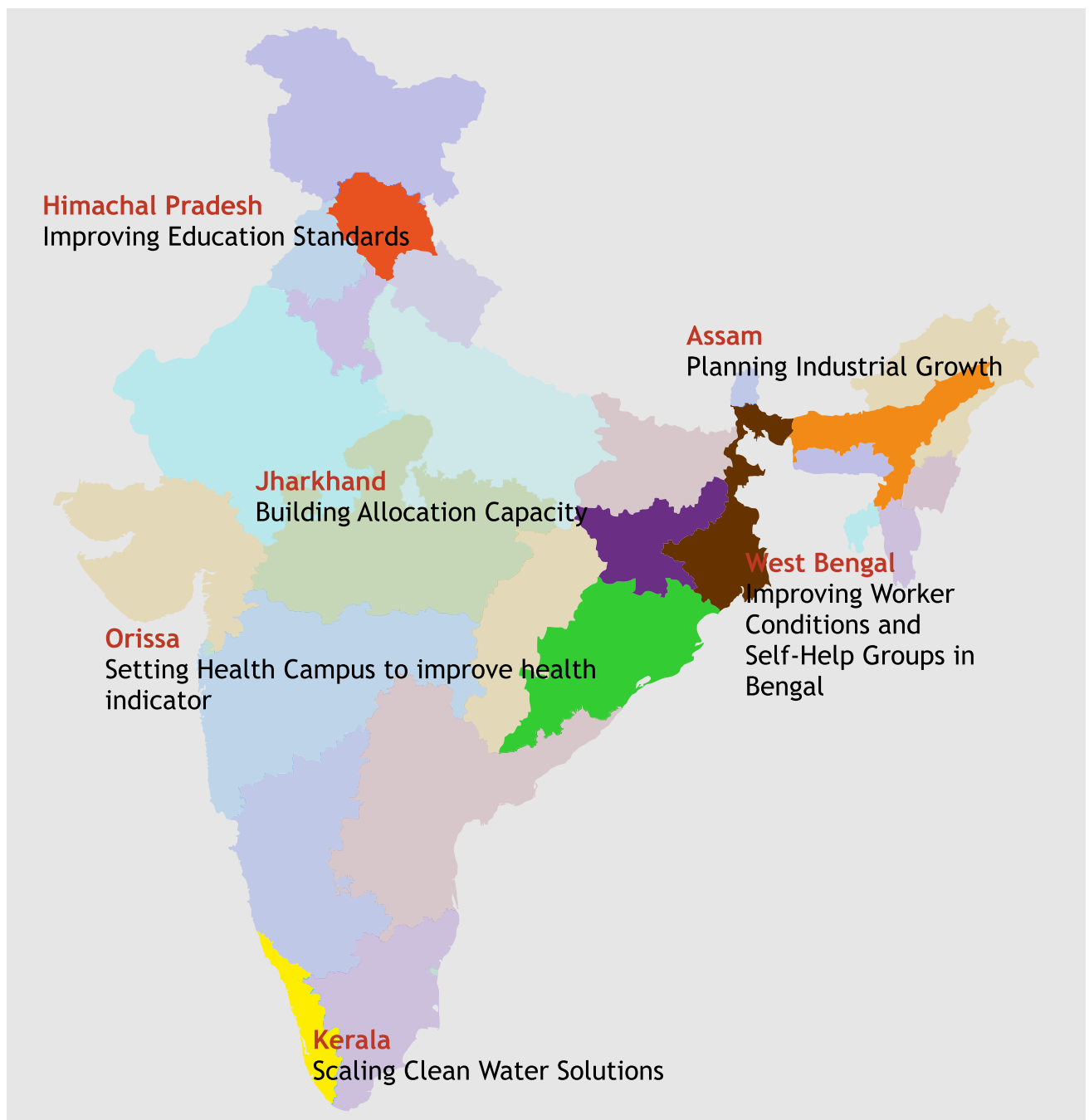
Since most of our fellowships are 8 to 12 weeks long, Fellows are expected to be quick learners and problem-solvers.



FELLOWSHIP



Swaniti's presence across India



FELLOWSHIP



Our Fellows Experiences

Abhimanyu Prakash - *Ernakulam and Kochi - Kerala*

The Swaniti experience, as a fellow, was a two-fold opportunity to give and to get. It provided me with the platform to contribute to the labyrinthine Indian political system and at the same time gave me the chance to learn and imbibe from the illimitable nuances of how this country functions.



Tushar Garg - *Barrackpore - Kolkata*

The guiding presence of Shri Dinesh Trivedi has solicited my venture into the dynamics of policy, in the context of critical occupational health in the jute industry. To this, fellows have been able to address refreshing innovation of thought, some simplistic, some complex, always instructive. These thoughts arose from an exposure and access that is granted to a privileged few social interventions and becomes possible only because of Swaniti's path breaking model. This journey commenced with tepid steps into the Indian politics and concludes with a mind bursting with ideas about the potential of India.



Geeta Ramakrishnan - *Hamirpur - Himachal Pradesh*

The Swaniti Fellowship exposed me to unfamiliar domains, challenged my skillsets, pushed me to achieve more and awarded me with the immense satisfaction of making a difference to society.





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