

Youth Bole: Ab Meri Baari

Speakers for 9th February

Opening Address

Shailja Mehta, Dasra

Profile: [Link](#)

Shailja began her role at Dasra, as a lead for the 10to19 Adolescents Collaborative. She works on issues related to Gender, Women, Young People and Adolescent Girls' leadership and equity; pursuing a collaborative approach to solve multi-generational, complex issues. These initiatives accelerate a community-first approach by funders, civil society and government ensuring that these groups are equipped to achieving their full potential. These are outcomes-focused, multi-stakeholder programs that elevate women, girls and young people's voice, builds knowledge and networks, and mobilizes resources for implementation. Over the years, the Collaboratives have garnered over USD 50 million towards interventions, reaching over 10 million adolescents with programs working on prevention of child marriage, teenage pregnancy, increase in education and employability, leadership & agency development. This has enabled effective policy implementation in contributing to moving the needle towards 4 SDGs: good health and well-being, quality education, gender equality and reduced inequalities. Shailja aspires for a future where a billion Indian women, girls and adolescents thrive with dignity and equity.

Prior to working at Dasra, Shailja was a part of the founding team at Aangan since 2002, a non-profit which works to build safe communities that are free of child-harm practices such as trafficking, hazardous work, child marriage, violence and abuse. While at Aangan, she led their operations, finance and fundraising initiatives. Her work in public relations with Procter & Gamble and the entrepreneurial skills she developed, while setting up Third Eye Communications, and launching Time Out India, have enabled her creative solutioning mind-set and fostered her leadership skills. Shailja has also been a recipient of fellowships such as the Ford Motor Company Fellowship (2012) as well as the Aspen India Fellowship (2015) and the BMW Responsible Leaders Fellowship, amongst others.

Turning the Tide: Young Leaders Show the Way

- **Neha Yadav, Youth Ke Bol**

Profile: [Link](#)

- **Kehkasha, The YP Foundation**

Profile: [Link](#)

- **Priyanka Panda, Youth Ke Bol**

Profile: [Link](#)

- **Roshni, Delhi Learning**

- **Meenakshi Ruhela, Pravah**

Profile: [Link](#)

Nurturing youth and adolescent leadership with a demonstrated history of working with nonprofits. Meenakshi is skilled in Instructional design and facilitation, creative content creation, designing and implementing youth leadership programmes, communication strategy and storytelling, project and personnel management. Her work with Pravah has allowed her to take a deep dive into working with young people, social entrepreneurs and the ecosystem working for youth development. She has experience of working with institutions and young people across India, South Africa, U. S. and Australia.

Keynote Address

Dr. Indu Grewal, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare

Profile: [Link](#)

Addl, Commissioner, Nutrition, Min of Health & Family Welfare, Govt of at Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, Dr Grewal has over 25 years of comprehensive experience in Public Health. She has had held various positions at various levels of

management ranging from lower level to top level. Her specialisation includes Public Health, Nutrition. Child Health Routine and Immunization

Enabling Ecosystems Strategic Perspectives on Field Building for Adolescents and Youth

- **Abhijeet Pathak, Jhpiego**

Profile: [Link](#)

A medical graduate from the prestigious Armed Forces Medical College and a post graduate in Public Health Management and Epidemiology with experience of contributing to national and international healthcare enterprises ranging from Health IT and financing (Infosys, Aetna, WellPoint-Anthem, IFMR, ILO, CHIPS) to managing health systems (NRHM, IPPF, Care hospitals) and community Health (Save the children, UNFPA, PWDS, TCF). Before Jhpiego, Dr Abhijeet was the Program Officer at Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

- **Moni Sagar, USAID**

Profile: [Link](#)

Moni Sagar is a management, private sector, communication, and marketing professional with a passion for private sector engagement in development issues through shared value partnerships and encouraging entrepreneurship and innovation. She is currently working with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). She brings in 17 years of experience in leading public private people partnerships (PPP), managing multi-partner alliances, propelling platforms that encourage social entrepreneurship, and building strong ecosystems for innovations

- **Ananya Pandey, UNICEF YuWaah**

Profile: [Link](#)

Ananya is a Partnerships Specialist at UNICEF working dedicatedly on YuWaah (Generation Unlimited in India). Ananya's interest and focus lie at the nexus of partnerships and programs, and she has a successful track record of cultivating meaningful partnerships across stakeholders, including corporates, foundations,

philanthropists, UN agencies, and government. At UNICEF, she is working intentionally towards building YuWaah as a Public-Private-Youth Partnership platform that unlocks the potential of not just young people but the ecosystem at large.

- **Priya Karna, WHO**

Profile: [Link](#)

Currently serving as the Technical Officer at the World Health Organization, Priya is a public health expert with over a decade of experience in RMNCAH+ and Health system strengthening in LMIC working with WHO and other leading international academic, research organisations and policy think-tanks.

- **Dr. Deepa Prasad, UNFPA**

Profile: [Link](#)

Dr. Prasad is currently the Chief of Programme and Technical Support at UNFPA. A Public Health professional with experience in policy design, program management and coordination, and in leading teams. Her expertise includes program design and management of multi-stakeholder projects across a range of disciplines that includes Sexual and Reproductive Health, Health System Strengthening, Disaster Risk Management, Communicable disease control and HIV/AIDS.

- **Shraddha Chickerur, UN Women**

Profile: [Link](#)

A PhD in Gender Studies and work experiences with grassroots civil society organisations, Shraddha has been engaged in researching and facilitating women's and young people's agency in rural local governance, sexual and reproductive health and rights, assisted reproductive technologies and surrogacy, gender-based violence and health. Working as the Program Coordinator, Inter-governmental Programme at UN Women, she is currently involved in strengthening gender equality and youth development internally and externally across the UN system in India.

- **Nandika Kumari, Dasra**

Profile: [Link](#)

Towards a Better Quality of Life for Young People

- **Prachi Garg Organon**

Profile: [Link](#)

She is a Market Access, Policy and Communications Lead at Organon, a global healthcare company focused on improving the health of women. With over 15 years of experience in public health and social and behaviour change communication, she leads the market access, policy, pricing, and communications portfolios for South Asia. As a Hubert H. Humphrey Fellow, she has studied public health policy and management at Emory University and gained skills in epidemiology, leadership, and conflict resolution. She has also convened the Green Fulbrighters Forum, a platform for exchanging ideas on climate change. She has worked with the central and state governments and donor partners in India and Bangladesh, managing large teams, projects, and complex multi-stakeholder environments.

- **Prianka Rao, Meta**

Profile: [Link](#)

- **Jatin Luthra, The Man Company**

Profile: [Link](#)

As the Head of Marketing at The Man Company, Jatin leads the strategy and execution of all marketing initiatives for the premium men's grooming brand. With over 10 years of experience in marketing, he has a proven track record of taking brands from zero-to-one and scaling them up while building brand salience, content, and performance. Prior to joining The Man Company, he was a Senior Brand Manager at Ola Electric, where he contributed to the launch and growth of the electric 2W mobility category in India. He also worked as a Marketing Manager at Swiggy scaling up the Swiggy Genie service. He had launched Bira 91's merch as a brand extension and a prime surrogate category for the brand. Worked on key projects on shopper and trade marketing in Bira 91 and DelMonte (a Bharti group company)

- **Aahana Dhar, Tinder**

Profile: [Link](#)

Currently the Country Director of Communications, India, Aahana is a communications specialist with proven success in campaign planning and delivery across industries in Asian markets. Skilled in crisis management, reputation management, consumer and product comms, health, policy and strategic communications.

Closing Address

Mr. Amit Nirmal,

Profile: [Link](#)

Shri Amit Nirmal is an accomplished Indian Statistical Services (ISS) officer, belonging to the 2001 batch. He has been awarded Gold Medal in Statistics by University of Rajasthan and has made significant contributions to the field of statistics during his career. As an ISS officer, Shri Nirmal has worked on important positions with various Government Departments like handling International Borders Management at Ministry of Home Affairs, heading the National Labour Institute and National Board for Workers Education and Development. He has been involved in several critical data collection exercises to guide policy decisions. He is presently managing the National Career Service (NCS) project and e-Shram Portal as Deputy Director General (Employment), Ministry of Labour and Employment. He is also the recipient of Digital India Gold award by the Hon'ble President of India.

Reach out to us

We're excited to join hands with you to make **Youth Bole: Ab Meri Baari** conclave a great platform to advance learning and share the best practices that enhance the quality of life of young people.

Please feel free to reach out to us at youth.bole.ab.meri.baari@gmail.com or epcita@dasra.org if you have any queries or ideas on how we can partner together!

