



# The Buddha Times

DECEMBER 2021

## Vision

Build a modern, inclusive India and a modern, inclusive world.

To groom leaders of tomorrow who will build such an India, such a world.

## Mission

Mentor **1000** Development Entrepreneurs

Impact **5,000,000** Lives by 2030.



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# Letter From The Editor



**Dear Friend,**

**2021 has been a great year. There is reason to be optimistic.**

Buddha Fellows not only survived but also thrived, through the pandemic. Kudos particularly to Buddha Fellows Madhu, Rakesh, Preeti, Kaushal, Darshan, and Satyam.

I am very happy to share that the combined annual receipts of Buddha Fellows' Enterprises for the period 2018-21 were INR 1,71,45,588 (USD 235,000), creating 913 jobs, assisting 4000 micro-entrepreneurs and raising the income of 2400 rural people.

Another happy occasion was the graduation ceremony of 7 Buddha Fellows, held on 18th January 2021. Mr. Nagendra Nath Sinha, Secretary, Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India, was our Chief Guest for the occasion. Prof Abhay Karandikar, Director, IIT Kanpur delivered the keynote address.

New partnerships were initiated, collaboration with IIM Bangalore's NS Raghavan Centre for Entrepreneurship Learning being one of the more significant partnerships.

In the Ford Foundation, we have now another valued institutional partner, apart from the Axis Bank. With Ford's support, we will be able to raise social awareness, for the next three years among 10,000 students from 50 top educational institutions in the country.

Several individuals, including alumni from IIT Kanpur made generous contributions to Buddha Fellowship. The drive generated USD 60,000. In the next few months, we are hoping to raise another USD 1,40,000 in order to be able to support 15 Fellows.

**Wishing you a healthy and happy 2022 and thank you for your generous support through the year.**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ved Arya".

**Ved Arya**

Founder

Buddha Fellowship Program

# What Have the Start Ups of Buddha Fellows Achieved?

TOTAL RECEIPTS : INR 1,71,45,588 (USD 235,000)

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EMPLOYMENT CREATED (NO. OF PEOPLE) : 913

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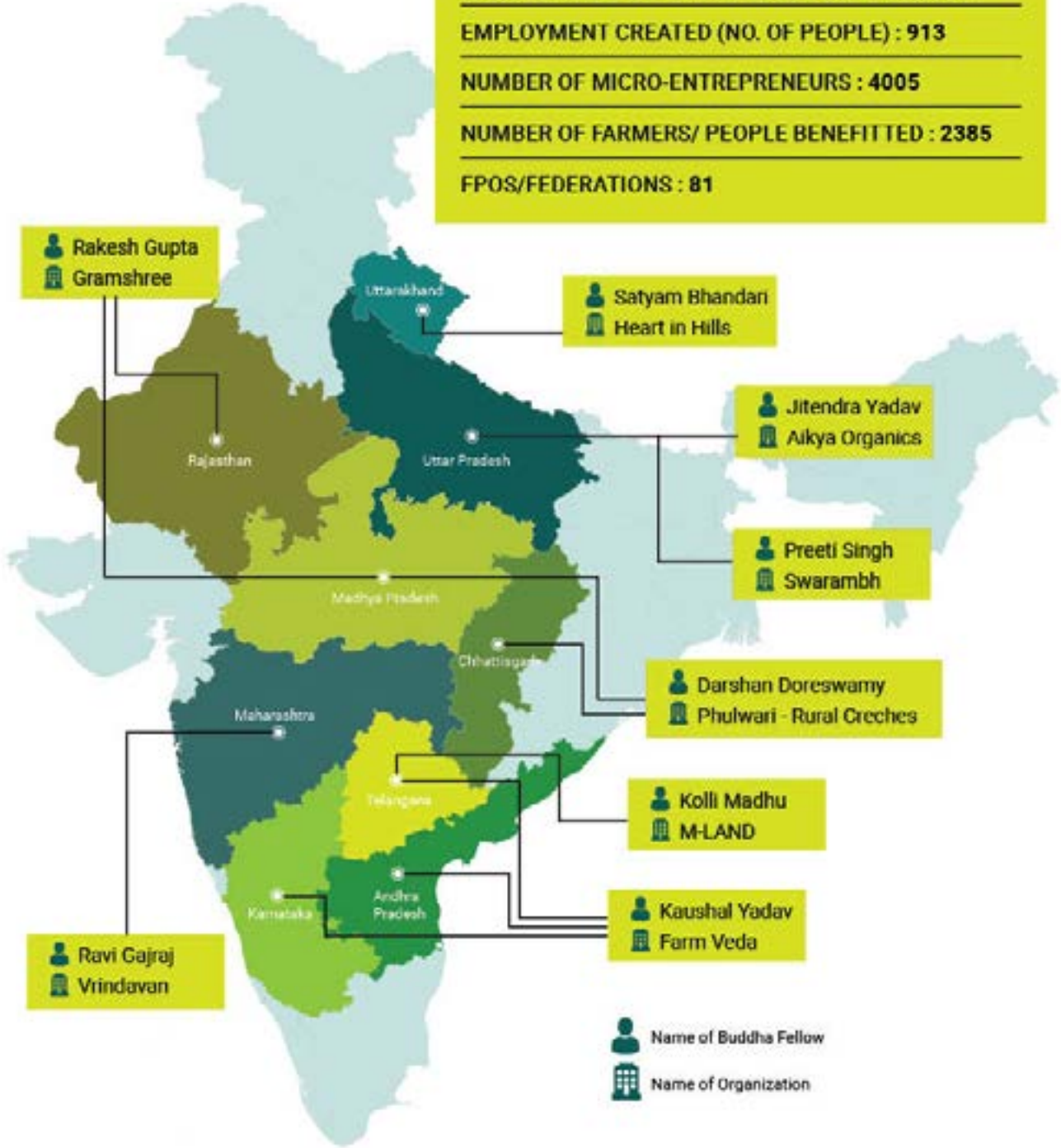
NUMBER OF MICRO-ENTREPRENEURS : 4005

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NUMBER OF FARMERS/ PEOPLE BENEFITTED : 2385

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FPOS/FEDERATIONS : 81



**We thank you for making these achievements possible**

We are on a mission to mentor 1000 Development Entrepreneurs who will go on to impact 5 million lives in Rural India by 2030.

**Join hands with us to make this possible.**

India & Other Countries

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USA

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# Highlights of The Year

**Graduation ceremony of the second cohort of Buddha Fellows was organized on 18th January 2021, with over 200 people from India and the USA participating virtually.**






Chief Guest, Mr. Nagendra Nath Sinha, Secretary, Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India gave away the certificates of completion to seven BF graduates.

“Our program (NRLM) is looking out for a large number of such entrepreneurs who are deeply invested in rural areas and want to contribute to Atmanirbhar Bharat by strengthening the economic base of rural producers especially women”.

**Listen in to the address of Mr. Nagendra Nath Sinha**



**Distinguished guests who addressed the Buddha Fellows**

-  Rajesh Dahiya, Executive Director, Axis Bank Limited
-  Rajeev Kapoor, Information Commissioner, Government of Uttar Pradesh
-  Abhay Karandikar, Director, IIT Kanpur
-  Charanjit Singh, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Rural Development
-  Piyush Gupta, the BFP Coordinator in the US

**Watch the ceremony here**



**Buddha Fellows explore new entrepreneurship opportunities in collaboration with NGOs**

Ved Arya, Founder, Buddha Fellowship Program, visited the Keystone Foundation and found potential for promoting organic coffee, silk, cotton, etc. by engaging a future Buddha Fellow.

A joint study by Buddha Fellows Darshan and Kaushal was carried out on the feasibility of building a value chain in organic mustard in eastern Rajasthan especially Bharatpur and Karauli.

Rakesh Gupta, Buddha Fellow and Shipra Singh, Theme Leader for Buddha Fellowship Program, identified an opportunity for custard apple value chain in Kanker District of Chhattisgarh.

# What Motivates a Buddha Fellow?

Buddha Fellowship Program selects passionate young minds who are driven to change the social reality in India and in other emerging economies.



## Kolli Madhu Beat The Odds During The Pandemic



The sudden national lockdown announced by the Government on 24th March 2020, severely disrupted operations in Kolli Madhu's organization, M-LAND. The consignment of Dutch rose seedlings meant to be planted on his farm in Andhra Pradesh was stopped at the border of Tamil Nadu. This meant he couldn't grow them in 2020. Undeterred, he continued with his efforts. Buddha

Fellowship connected him to Pawanexh Kohli, Founding Chief Executive of National Center for Cold Chain Development, for advice on extending the shelf life of roses. Prof. Om Damani of IIT-Mumbai, member of Advisory Council, Buddha Fellowship Program, was instrumental in raising USD 70,000 (INR 5 million) to set up 2 additional greenhouses.



Dutch roses grown in his farm have now displaced those from Bangalore in many local towns in Andhra Pradesh.

# The Journey Buddha Fellows Take



## Fundraising Campaign among IIT Kanpur Alumni and Other Friends

The US support group of BFP led by Nanda Nandkishore and Piyush Gupta organized a fundraising campaign among alumni of IIT Kanpur and other friends in the US and India. The crowdfunding initiative raised USD 60,000 during the year and is working hard to mobilize more supporters in the US.

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## The Buddha Fellowship Team



**Ved Arya**  
Founder



**Shipra Singh**  
Theme Leader



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## Buddha Fellowship Program

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