

# BAITHAK FOUNDATION ANNUAL REPORT



BAITHAK

EMERGING WITH CLARITY AND COURAGE

*A SMALL STEP  
MAKES A BIG DIFFERENCE*

2022-2023





# MESSAGE FROM THE TEAM

The previous fiscal year presented numerous challenges, foremost among them being the recovery from the ongoing pandemic. We decided to focus on reviving our conversations with everyone deeply involved in Baithak and reinitiate our engagements at various locations. There was a noticeable sense of disconnect for many reasons like shifts in leadership, change in priorities, lack of bandwidth and also a fear of another pandemic like situation.

Baithak has always been a space for experimentation, adaptation and learning and last year was a period of deep re-organisation, alongside extensive testing and experimentation of bold ideas.

Our flagship initiative Baithak @Classes is now: **The APT Project**  
Anubhav~Parichay~Taleem (APT) is a layered and process oriented program that has evolved after 7 years of active experimentation.

We could re-kindle our old partnerships as well as develop some new ones during the year!

We have also started expanding our team to cater to the growing demand from schools and centres.

**We are happy to announce that Baithak is a part of the Ujwal Impact Advisors (UIA) network.**

Senior partners at UIA network, mentor Baithak team on regular basis to help us enhance the value added to our beneficiaries.

**Our archival work, publications, dialogue forums and immersive workshops will now be organised under Baithak's Knowledge Wing.**

In this Annual Report you will read about the pilots Talking with Tradition, Pune Kabir Festival and Shishirotsav along with updates on The APT Project in Pune and Solapur.

At Baithak we do difficult work that stands out for its quality, depth and honesty. This has only been possible because of our mentors and Gurus who have never allowed us to choose the easy option.

We are deeply grateful to all who steer this ship in the right direction!

## Team Baithak



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

- About Baithak
- 2022-23 at a glance!
- The APT Project
- APT Outcomes
- Talking with Tradition (TWT)
- Shishirotsav
- Pune Kabir Festival (PKF)
- Key Financials
- The Baithak Community



# ABOUT BAITHAK

Baithak was started with the vision to empower every human to discover their true potential and lead life with deep self - society connect.

We recognise that Indian Traditional Music is a fantastic tool to create a conscious community that champions the highest human potential in all sections of the society as music has always been a part of Indian individual and social consciousness.

Through our work we envision that we create individuals who strive for excellence and a community that flourishes in joy. We believe that to be keen listeners and silent observers of the self and the world is the greatest need of our modern society.

Baithak takes flight through the strength of its two wings - experience and knowledge.

Our initiatives have been meaningful because of the team's deep understanding of the fundamental nature of Indian Traditional Music, its processes, mechanisms and potential impact.

Baithak envisions a future where this deep understanding transforms itself into a model that drives change.



# 2022-23 AT A GLANCE

**52000**  
DIGITAL AUDIENCE

**3000**  
STUDENTS IMPACTED

**11**  
PARTNER ORGANISATIONS

**20**  
CURATED EVENTS

**53**  
ANUBHAV SESSIONS

**108**  
ARTISTS

**15**  
ART FORMS

**19**  
SCHOOLS AND CENTRES

**2**  
CITIES



# 22-23 AT A GLANCE



## THE APT PROJECT

19 Schools and Centres  
61 Anubhav Sessions  
70 Artists  
2000+ Students  
4 New partnerships



## TALKING WITH TRADITION

3 Craft workshops  
10 Discussion panels  
3 Immersive concerts  
30+ Scholars and Practitioners



## SHISHIROTSAV

An overnight gathering of musicians which invited perspectives, observations and stories. Concluded by a Rudra veena recital by Utd. Bahauddin Dagar



## RRBCEA CONCERTS

As we do every year, Baithak organised 5 concerts at Rupa Rahul Bajaj Centre for Environment and Art



## PUBLIC EVENTS

The year was full of concerts at cafes, book stores and other public spaces. These events help us expand our network of volunteers.



## WORKSHOPS

Throughout the year, Baithak conducted workshops for institutions like Lalit Kala Kendra, FTII, Pratham etc.



## PUNE KABIR FESTIVAL

The first ever PKF centred around a theme. This festival was completely volunteer led and partnered with multiple organisations around the city.



# THE APT PROJECT

## Addressing an urgent need!

**I am also doing the dance that moment. I am lost in enjoying!**

- Aman (after watching a Kathak Anubhav)

Unfortunately, almost all the children availing education through public schooling system in India lack access to music, dance and art of any kind.

NEP 2020 emphasises on incorporating arts in schooling to access the multiple benefits their exposure and practise provides. Baithak Foundation's APT Project is a highly replicable model to inspire and engage children in Indian Traditional Music and Dance through monthly concerts, workshops and weekly clubs.

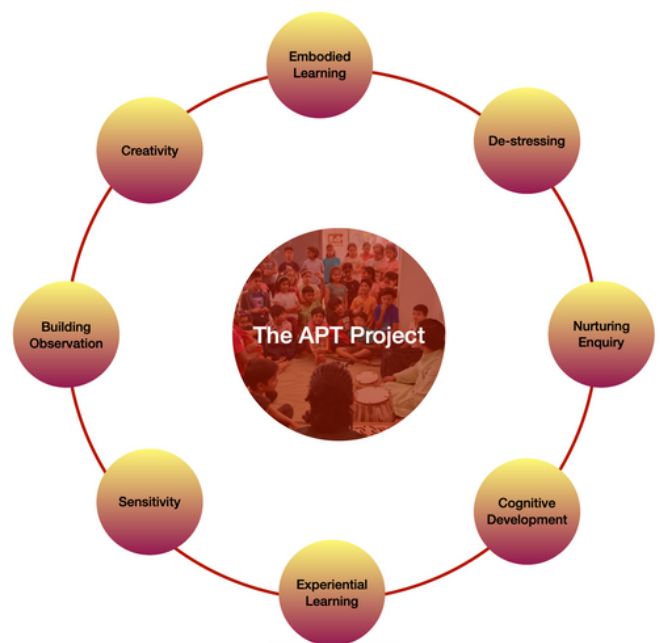
As we restarted after pandemic we began with Anubhav Sessions. These sessions provide enriching multi sensorial experiences and nurture the sense of wonder in children, simultaneously making art accessible to children from most marginalised communities. These sessions open up a complete new dimension to children. We bring back joy in learning spaces!

By employing traditional art methodologies we nurture empathy and build compassionate bonds. The APT project facilitates personal growth, artistic development in a joyful and experiential learning environment.

joy

**This was good experience in my life!**

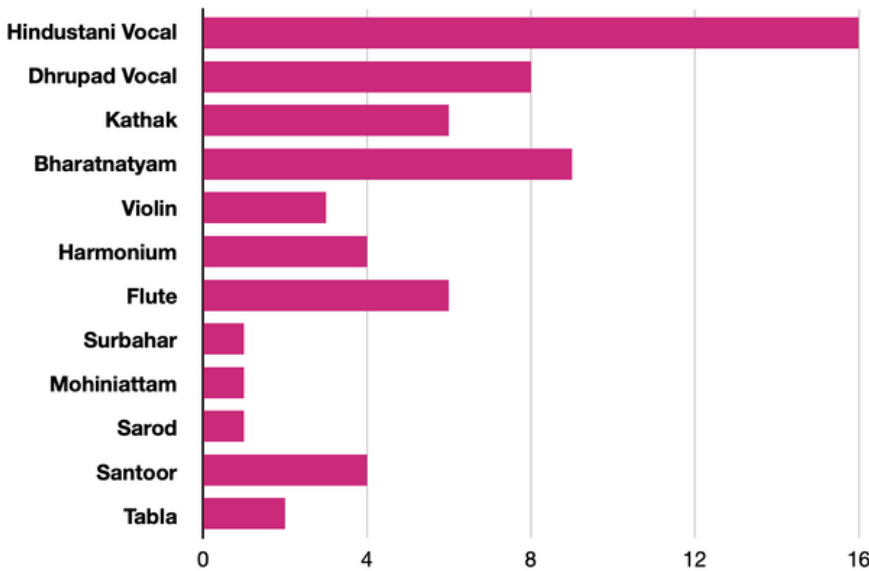
- Anshara (After an instrumental recital)



# THE APT PROJECT

# Key Facts & Feedback

## Art forms presented :

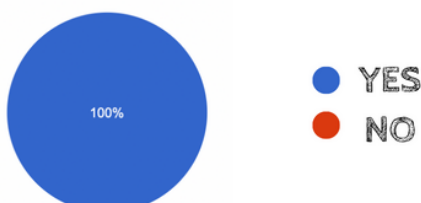


**Total Anubhav Sessions : 61**

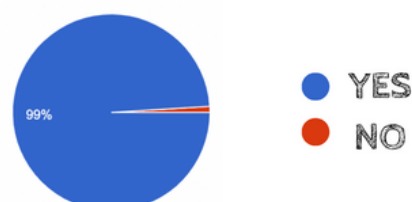
## Partner schools/centres:

- Late Anantrao Pawar Memorial English Medium School, Pune
- Dyanjyoti Vidyamandir, Khadakwasla
- Aksharnandan School, Pune
- Swadhar - Asha Centre, Pune
- Swadhar - Chaitraban Centre, Pune
- Swadhar - Gangadham Centre, Pune
- Swadhar - Gandhinagar Centre, Pune
- Swadhar - House of Smile Centre, PCMC
- Swadhar - Morwadi Centre, PCMC
- Snehwan, Koyali Phata
- Sahyadri School, Bhimashankar
- Sonamata Vidyamandir, Solapur
- Shri. Samartha Vidyamandir, Solapur
- Kamla Nehru Prashala, Solapur
- ZP School No. 28, Solapur
- ZP School, Kegaon

## DID YOU ENJOY THE EVENT?



## WOULD YOU LIKE TO ATTEND MORE SUCH EVENTS IN YOUR SCHOOL/CENTRE?



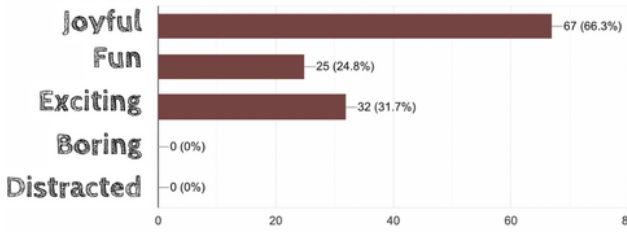
*Feedback from 260 children  
(a minimum of 15 children from each school/centre)*



# TESTIMONIALS & MORE

## Children Speak

CHOOSE WORDS THAT  
DESCRIBE YOUR EXPERIENCE.



## Artists Speak

"My session was the first introduction to the genre in the school and it was quite eye opening to see that even in a city like Pune, which is known as a cultural capital, a vast section of our children are not exposed to traditional art forms. The work done by Baithak to address this issue is phenomenal.

What I also appreciated is how self-sufficient Mandar and Dakshayani are while planning the concert. With their own sound system, mats to sit on, extensions for electric connections, they are all equipped to host a concert literally anywhere!" - **Radhika Joshi Ray, Hindustani Classical Vocalist**

"Children make you feel very satisfied as an artist, they notice certain things which otherwise very less people would."

**Radhika Karandikar, Bharatnatyam Dancer**

"I think it is a form of stimulation creatively, aesthetically and artistically. The energy of that give and take (artists-children) in a small intimate setting is something for the development of any child. I think all children should be exposed to arts in this form."

**Nayantara Parpia, Kathak Dancer**

## Teachers Speak

मुले इतर उपक्रमामध्ये एवढे शांत बसत नाही. त्यांची हालचाल असते, किंवा खोऱ्या चालत असतात, परंतु येथे ते गुंतलेले दिसले.

पहिल्यांदाच तबल्याच्या विविध धून आणि ताल यांची माहिती मिळाली आणि कार्यक्रम खूप आवडला

विद्यार्थी बसल्या ठिकाणी जमिनीवर, मांडीवर, पाठीवर तबल्याचा ठेका धरत होती.

*Anonymous responses collected at the end of the year.*



# TALKING WITH TRADITION

Talking with Tradition is one of our pilot events, serving the purpose of delving into the fundamental concepts deeply ingrained in Indian arts and crafts, utilising tradition as the medium of exploration.

The workshop's significance lies in its conceptual motivation to transcend the realms of mere technique and performance associated with "Bhartiya Kala" and "Karigari." It strives to pose more significant inquiries concerning design and market dynamics, social relevance, transmission of embodied knowledge, as well as the philosophical and ethical essence that renders them uniquely Indian.



The experience was meaningful. The interactions with people and all the sessions were enriching and thought provoking. I realise, I am personally being extremely influenced by the competitive and fast paced nature of art creation and losing a sense of calmness and quietness. In times when our ideas of art and its meaning is more and more being curated by social media, I felt a need to be more connected with such people and spaces in order to not just find answers but also to be in a space where the ideas related to art are slow, patient and nurturing.

*Anonymous feedback*



## TALKING WITH TRADITION

27 to 29 May 2022

A three day immersive to expand our view of Kalā and Kārigari using tradition as a framework of empathy.

- 1 Will explore deeply embedded concepts and systems that fuel and feed the plethora of artisanal crafts, performing and fine arts across the country and down the ages.
- 2 Will explore fundamental questions about aesthetic structures, social locations, knowledge transmission, codification and embodied practice, philosophical and ethical continuities.
- 3 In this safe space for deliberation, listening, contemplating and examining our experiences participants will have a chance to access insights of artists, master craft-persons and scholars across three generations.



**40+ participants including scholars, art practitioners, craftsmen, journalists, designers and students.**

# SHISHIROTSAV

Shishirotsav took place as an overnight gathering on December 31, 2022. It provided a relaxed and informal setting for our musicians, offering opportunities for singing, engaging in games, and building interpersonal connections. Its primary objective was to foster a deeper understanding and familiarity with the musicians and artists who collaborate with us.

The highlight of the event was a concert by Ustad Bahauddin Dagar. This mesmerising performance lasted for several hours, captivating the audience, beginning our year with great music! The event will be remembered for long as it was truly an enriching experience for all those involved.



"Being a ICM musician I never enjoyed the party and club culture. To begin with I was a bit skeptical about how the evening was going to turn out. Having a lot of faith in Dakshayani I agreed to be a part of it, nevertheless.

We began playing a series of games one after another, but these were not ordinary games. They tested our intellect and musical abilities simultaneously. It was truly a delight for any musician's brain.

Shishirotstav reinstated in me both the beauty and the power of our classical music. It also motivated me to kickstart 2023 with more Riyaz and more music."

**Anupam Joshi, Musician (Sarod)**



# PUNE KABIR FESTIVAL



Another pilot that we conceptualised and curated is the Pune Kabir Festival. It exemplified Baithak's novel approach to promoting art accessibility through the dual channels of knowledge and experience. The festival fostered a sense of community and centred around the practice and celebration of the profound wisdom shared by Kabir and other saints of India.

By blurring the boundaries between performers and audiences, the festivities aimed to create a spiritually immersive environment conducive to dialogue and poetic expression. It stands as a testament to the festival's commitment to preserving and revitalizing centuries-old wisdom through embodied presence, active participation, and a collective pursuit of learning.



"The Pune Kabir Festival proved to be an extraordinary and captivating experience. I had the privilege of being a part of it, responding to the call for volunteers by the Baithak Foundation.

The festival was a culmination of ideas and a true manifestation of cultural diversity. It belonged to all of us – a festival for the people, by the people – and above all, an authentic celebration of Kabir."

***Snehal Neel, Volunteer***

"The festival management exhibited exceptional professionalism, ensuring a seamless experience for artists and attendees alike. The opportunity to showcase my talent amidst a diverse and appreciative audience was truly fulfilling."

***Pranjal Yadav, Student Performer, Lalit Kala Kendra***



# Key Financials

Baithak Foundation is grateful for the ever-growing support that enables us to take Indian Traditional music and dance to more people!

As our on the ground connect with people gets stronger, we are so gratified to witness an increasing community participation and generous involvement in terms of funding, volunteering, offers of venues, artist collaborations. All of this enthuses us to move forward with more verve.

THROUGH LONG TERM DONORS

RETAIL FUNDRAISING

APRIL 2022-MARCH 2023

# 29.3L

PROGRAM SPECIFIC DONATIONS

# 6.2L

GENERAL DONATIONS

# 35.5L

TOTAL DONATIONS

*We are deeply thankful to have long term program partners and donors who support this work generously.*



# BAITHAK COMMUNITY

## ARTISTS

Aalok Alsi  
Aashay Kulkarni  
Abhijit Bartakke  
Abhishek Shinkar  
Adwait Gadgil  
Aishwarya Rajput  
Ajinkya Joshi  
Alhad Alsi  
Ambarish Das  
Amruta Paranjape  
Aneri Seth  
Anjali Raju  
Ankit Malaviya  
Anuja Zokarkar  
Anup Kulthe  
Apoorv Gokhale  
Apoorv Petkar  
Arjun Kali Prasad  
Arun Goyal  
Asgar Khan  
Ashlesha A Shintre  
Ashwin Anand  
Atharva Kulkarni  
Atul Khandekar  
Avyay Pisharody  
Bhushan Koshti  
Bhuvanesh Komkali  
Chintan Upadhyay  
Dhaval Joshi  
Dnyaneshwar Sonawane  
Eesha Pingale  
G.Vishwanath  
Gandhar Bhalerao  
Ganesh Phapal  
Harsh Satya  
Hrisikesh Page

Jaipu Khan  
Kailash Verma  
Kedar Kelkar  
Keshavchaitanya Kunte  
Kousik Banerjee  
Krushna Salunke  
Kunal Joshi  
Kushal Gopalka  
Lalit Deshpande  
Leeladhar Chakradeo  
Madhav Limaye  
Madhav Sahasrabudhe  
Madhavi Kelkar-Chakradeo  
Madhura Aphale  
Malavika  
Manasa Nayana  
Mandar Gadgil  
Manoj Dhudhawar  
Meghana Sardar  
Meher Paralikar  
Moushami Jaju  
Namita Mujumdar  
Nayantara Parpia  
Nilesh Ranadive  
Ninad Daithankar  
Parimal Phadke  
Parth Tarabdkar  
Parwati Datta  
Pooja Bhattad  
Pranav Gurav  
Prasad Kulkarni  
Prasad Mahajan  
Pratap Awad  
Priya Purushothaman  
Pushkar Mahajan  
Radhika Joshi

Radhika Karandikar  
Radhika Parikh  
Radhika Seshan  
Ram Shankar  
Rama Thakar-Tridhara  
Ramakant Goyal  
Rohit Mujumdar  
Roshan Chandgude  
Rutuja Lad  
Sachin Sachar  
Sakshi Joshi  
Samruddhi Lele  
Santosh Saroliya  
Sardar Khan  
Saumitra Kshirsagar  
Saurabh Vartak  
Sawan Kumar  
Sawani Shikhre  
Shruti Ranade  
Siddharth Padiyar  
Snehashish Das  
Srabani Basu  
Srijan Dehspande  
Sukhad Munde  
Sushruti Santhanam  
Swarada Bhave  
Swarali-Tridhara  
Swaroopaa Bhonde  
Tejas Koparkar  
Tukaram Jadhav  
Ustad Bahauddin Dagar  
Vaishnavi Dhore  
Vijay Balaji  
Vipul Kulkarni  
Vivekanand Kurangale

# BAITHAK COMMUNITY

## PARTNERS

Aksharnandan School  
Ashraya Initiative  
Bansuri Foundation  
Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute  
Dakshina Dvaraka Foundation  
Dyanjyoti Vidyamandir  
Gangasagar Ratanadhan Trust  
Indian Institute of Science Education and Research  
Jeevitnadi- Living River Foundation  
Akanksha Late Anantrao Pawar Memorial English  
Medium School  
Lalit Kala Kendra  
Learning Home  
Millennium School  
Swadhar Centres (6)  
Panaah Community Centre  
Precision Foundation  
Parijat Foundation  
Pune Urban Sketchers  
Rukmineesh Seva Trust  
Rupa Rahul Bajaj Centre for Environment and Arts  
Sahyadri School  
Silica Aurangabad  
Snehawan  
Solapur Municipal Schools (5)  
The Great Eastern Shipping and Weaving Company  
Tata Management Training Centre  
Zentest Software Pvt. Ltd.

## TEAM

Dakshayani Athalye  
Mandar Karanjkar  
Saurabh Londhe  
Dr. Sushruti Santhanam  
Thara Vadakkath

## PATRONS

Anand Padhye  
Ashok Korwar  
Chetana Pawar  
Jatin Gujrati  
Kalpana Korwar  
Kranti Kanade  
Krishna Iyer  
Mangala Deshpande  
Mona Banerjee  
Shrirang Joshi  
Sanjay Phadke  
Sanjeev Naik  
Swati Kulkarni

## VOLUNTEERS

Abhiram Khekale  
Alhad Alsi  
Ambarish Athalye  
Ankur Chopra  
Gauri Talegaonkar  
Mayuresh Gupchup  
Namrata Shah  
Ram Iyer  
Sameer Gholve  
Sharwari Dorge  
Shrutika Raut  
Shubha Kulkarni  
Snehal Neel



BAITHAK

**JOIN THE REVOLUTION!**  
**DONATE**



Join Baithak's Whats'App Community/Mailing List/Broadcast List  
Drop a message to: +91 87671 20470

Follow us on:

[Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#) | [YouTube](#) | [LinkedIn](#)

Write to us:

[hello@baithak.org](mailto:hello@baithak.org)