

## Immersive Tour @ SGNP

BNI Kaaleido members and their families were engaged in an immersive tour on the 26<sup>th</sup> of June, 2022 to local tribal communities within Mumbai to support their livelihood, as well as to sensitize them on supporting wildlife and nature.



The tour started at 9 am with everyone meeting at the entry point to Sanjay Gandhi National Park, Borivali east where we were greeted by the native inhabitants of the park, Monkeys! Breakfast made by the tribal women staying inside the park was served to the participants.

Post breakfast, seedballs consisting of



custard apple and jamun seeds were distributed to the group to encourage the habit of growing plants and contributing to the green cover. The seed balls could be dispersed along the walk which would germinate once it got the right conditions.

The group went for a guided tour of the park which included a visit to the lake, the closed enclosure of the peacocks and deer. The group also walked across the riverbed which was still dry due to the delayed monsoons. Along the walk the group was educated on the various types of trees and their importance to the biodiversity. After the walk the group feasted on some fruits and other food plucked directly from the forest and are free from pesticides and sold by the women from the park.





Dinesh Baraf a Warli artist from the tribal community within the park engaged with the group post the walk. Dinesh hails from a family which has been practicing Warli art from multiple generations. His work has taken him across the globe wherein he has received appreciation for his art.

Dinesh shared the traditional knowledge with regards to Warli painting along with the importance of the art and the history associated with it and also displayed some of this artwork which was extraordinary. The group too was provided with colors, brushes, blocks and a bag to paint and express their creativity. The

results of the activity were amazing!

An Impact shopping spree for products designed and developed by the women artisans was held post the painting activity. Different products were available such as bags, pouches, keychains, table mats and so on, made using waste or leftover fabric from garment businesses thereby highlighting the importance & need of recycling and reducing waste.



A wholesome and nutritious lunch prepared by the tribal women from the park which was served post the activity. Seasonal vegetables were part of the diet thereby conveying the importance of good cooking & eating habits. Post the lunch the group dispersed with lots of learnings, stronger bonds and fond memories.



Glimpses of the tour



















## Acknowledgements

We would like to put on record our appreciation towards the leadership team of BNI Kaaleido, President - Mohnish Vaishnav, Vice President - Kapil Khandelwal and Treasurer - Shreyas Jain for initiating the activity. We would also like to thank BNI Kaaleido member Ms. Karon Shaiva, Founder and Managing Trustee – RISE Infinity Foundation for planning and organizing the tour.

We are also thankful to all the BNI Kaaleido members who participated in the Immersive tour along with their family members. Last but not the least, we would like to appreciate all who contributed but could not attend the tour.

### ❖ Participants who attended the tour

- Mohnish Vaishnav
- Bhakti Vibhakar
- Badal Sardhara
- Kapil Khandelwal
- Mohit Surekha
- Hariharan Iyer, Kritika Iyer (wife) and Swara Iyer (Child)
- Subramanian Venkat, Rajeshwari Venkat (wife) and Samaira Venkat (child)
- Chetan Zaveri and Rudra Zaveri (child)
- Vandana Deshmukh and Parth Deshmukh (child)

### ❖ Participants who contributed but did not attend

- Shreyans Jain
- Kunal Cheria
- Risshi Bhojwni