



**SOMAIYA**  
VIDYAVIHAR UNIVERSITY



# REACH FELLOWSHIP 2026-27

**THEMATIC AREA 'LIVING TRADITIONS'**

- Ajarkpur Chapter
- Soil Probiotics Chapter
- **Gond Chapter**
- Warli Chapter

# REACH-3

## Anthropomorphism in Adivasi Art (Gond Chapter)

Residential Fellowship **tethered to Living & Learning Lab**- Madhuban Eco Retreat, Near Ratapani Wildlife Sanctuary, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh, Bharat

### Eligibility / Academic Requirement

Applicants must be alumni and should have completed their postgraduation in any of the disciplines : Art History, Social Anthropology Civilisation Studies, Art Psychology, Design, or Mass Communication, with an interest in culture, sustainability, storytelling, community engagement, and traditional knowledge systems are encouraged to apply.

Applicants **must be proficient in Hindi (Read, Write, and Speak)**, as the fellowship requires extensive interaction with local communities and documentation of regional knowledge systems.



The REACH Fellowship offers Fellows an opportunity to undertake immersive field-based engagement with Adivasi artists and communities, particularly within traditions such as Gond art, to document anthropomorphism, ecological narratives, and cultural storytelling embedded in tribal art practices. Through interactions with artists, storytellers, and local knowledge holders, Fellows will explore how animals, trees, rivers, spirits, and other living forms are represented through human-like characteristics shaped by ecological relationships, memory, identity, and lived cosmologies.

**The primary task of the Fellow is to build a structured documentation and reference base on anthropomorphic representations and ecological storytelling traditions in Adivasi art systems.** This includes documenting recurring motifs, symbolic representations, oral narratives, artistic processes, ecological associations, and socio-cultural meanings through interviews, field observations, participatory interactions, and visual documentation. The Fellow will also curate photographs, sketches, process illustrations, schematic representations, field notes, and narrative records while also undertaking literature review to situate the work within broader spectrum on tribal art, anthropology, indigenous knowledge systems, and ecological storytelling. In addition, the Fellow will explore pathways for creative public engagement, educational interpretation, and sustainability-linked cultural awareness through exhibitions, storytelling formats, and experiential learning modules.

## Deliverables

### Anthropomorphic Tribal Art Knowledge Repository

A structured visual and narrative documentation archive comprising motif catalogues, symbolic interpretations, ecological narratives, process illustrations, photographs, sketches, artist interviews, oral histories, field notes, and cultural storytelling records related to anthropomorphism in Adivasi art traditions.

### Curated Exhibition & Public Showcase

Development of a thematic exhibition and public engagement showcase presenting tribal ecological narratives, artistic symbolism, and anthropomorphic storytelling traditions through visual displays, interpretive communication, and immersive experiences.

### Experiential Learning & Workshop Module

Design of workshops, storytelling sessions, field immersion formats, and educational modules focused on tribal art, ecological imagination, indigenous knowledge systems, and sustainability-linked cultural learning and livelihood



*Dedicated Showcase in Sustainability Dialogue Flagship and Afsana respectively*



*This work contributes to the development of an Ecocultural and Narrative Living Lab at Somaiya Vidyavihar University, Mumbai that integrates indigenous knowledge systems into education, sustainability, creative practice, and public engagement*

## Why Join REACH?

**The Fellow will gain skills and exposure in:**

- Immersive field-based learning with Adivasi artists, storytellers, and living cultural landscapes
- Field research, visual documentation, storytelling, archiving, and creative communication
- Collaborative exploration of art, ecology, sustainability, culture, and indigenous knowledge systems
- Contribution to exhibitions, knowledge repositories, and public cultural showcases