

# SATHI MILAN 2025



*Fostering dialogues, collective resilience and shared commitment: Sathi Milan 2025*

SRUTI Sathi Milan (Annual Fellows Meet) is the annual collective meet of SRUTI Fellows, who have been working at the grassroots on various pressing issues in their own local and regional contexts. Over the years, Fellows have engaged in developing solutions to complex socio-economic issues amid an evolving nature of society, state and social organisations. It has also been an opportunity to discuss, develop collaborations and support each other in such initiatives, serving as a vital platform for dialogue, collective learning, and reflection.

This year, Sathi Milan was organised from 17 to 20 December 2025 in Faizabad, Uttar Pradesh. It saw active participation of fellows from across 16 states. Alongside creating an engaging space for our Fellows, who gained vital regional insights and reflections, the event also carved a space for working together on future pathways.



*In pictures: Sathis engaged in group activities*

Discussions during the gathering highlighted pressing concerns such as the changing nature of democratic spaces, heightened social issues, misinformation through social media, displacement of vulnerable communities, and the challenges to the livelihoods of migrant and informal workers.

At the same time, participants shared inspiring stories of grassroots mobilisation, community solidarity, and local initiatives that are nurturing resilience and driving positive social change.

Evenings brought out a rich diversity of music, poetry, stories and anecdotes in various languages, adding to the vibrant celebrations of collectiveness that is the Sathi Milan.



*A cultural evening in progress*



*Sathis immersed in field learning*

Set against the rich cultural tapestry of Awadh, Sathis engaged in thoughtfully designed group activities that emphasised the importance of collaboration and collective thinking.

The discussions consistently highlighted the urgent need to strengthen women's leadership and foster greater youth participation in advancing transformative social change.

A full day was dedicated to field visits and experiential learning, which commenced with all Sathis paying homage to Ashfaq Ullah Khan on his martyrdom day, a prominent leader of the Indian Independence movement. Sathis were divided into groups and visited different parts of the city, where they engaged closely with the work of the Awadh People's Forum- a grassroots collective actively working with youth to promote communal harmony and empowerment.



*In pictures: Glimpses from the field visits*

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Building on these experiences, participants immersed themselves in the cultural landscape of Awadh through visits to iconic sites such as Gulaab Bari and Guptar Ghat. Interactions with noted resource persons, including Dr. Anil Singh, Dr. Bushra Khatoon, and KP Singh, offered rich insights into the region's cultural heritage, alongside reflections on the social and political changes shaping Faizabad today.



*In pictures: Dr Purwa Bharadwaj taking the session on POSH (left), Sathis paying homage to Ashfaq Ullah Khan (right)*



*In pictures: A presentation session underway (left), Sathis geared up for field visit (right)*

The last day of the Meet concluded with a thoughtful and engaging focus on gender and inclusion. A compelling performance by Raschakra, celebrating the journeys of women leaders, held participants' attention and sparked reflection. This was followed by a comprehensive POSH training session led by Dr Purwa Bharadwaj, which unpacked the multiple dimensions of sexual harassment and addressed prevailing misconceptions with nuance and clarity.

*Sathi Milan 2025 concluded with renewed energy and commitment among participants, reaffirming the importance of collective action and solidarity in addressing the complex challenges faced by marginalised communities.*