

THE PULSE OF YOUNG INDIA



Voice of Youth from Grassroot

HIGHLIGHTS:

[STEM-MELA - Empowering Young Minds in STEM](#)

[Empowering Youth through Kitchen Gardens in Mengubaiguda - Asifabad](#)

[Sustainable Futures for Youth Through Goat Rearing initiative](#)

[HRDP's Organic Farming Exposure Visit Inspires Youth in Asifabad](#)

[AI Students Shine at Cognizant's Volunteer Outreach Program](#)

STORY OF THE MONTH

STEM-MELA - Empowering Young Minds in STEM

The STEM MELA, held on 25 February, at Bhosari, Pune, brought together 750 students from government schools in the Pimpri Chinchwad Municipal Corporation (PCMC) for an inspiring celebration of creativity, innovation, and critical thinking. Organized by the Centre for Youth Development and Activities and supported by United Way Delhi and EMpower, the event aimed to empower young minds to embrace STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) education. The event, aligned with Science Day, featured 98 innovative student-led projects, ranging from Rainwater Harvesting to Solar City models, Robots, and Plastic Recycling Systems. Students in grades 5 to 7 showcased their skills, demonstrating a strong grasp of STEM concepts and their ability to think critically and communicate effectively. Special guests, including Ms. Sunita Gite, Supervisor of the Education Department, PCMC, and Ms. Sujata Jadhav, UPSC Rank 1 holder, inspired students with their success stories, emphasizing the importance of STEM education in shaping the future.



Ms. Sonia Garcha, educationist, encouraged students to develop interdisciplinary thinking. The event also saw an empowering moment as all the inter-school competition winners were girls, underscoring the importance of gender inclusivity in STEM. Ms. Rimjim Rajesh Yadav won the first prize for her Eco Energy Farm project, while Ms. Gauri Virnath Kadwade and Mst. Shalu Manoj Gond took second and third prizes, respectively. The STEM Mela celebrated students' achievement and also highlighted the impact of CYDA's STEM program in fostering hands-on learning and preparing students for the future.



Empowering Youth through Kitchen Gardens in Mengubaiguda - Asifabad

On October 1, 2024, Mengubaiguda village took a significant step toward self-sufficiency and sustainable living with the launch of the Kitchen Garden Seeds Distribution event, led by CYDA under the HDRP project and supported by HDFC Bank. This initiative brought together 40 women and youth, equipping them with seeds, skills, and knowledge to cultivate their own kitchen gardens. Guided by Ms. Mamatha, ANM, and Mr. Balakrishna, CYDA's Agriculture Specialist, the participants were empowered to take charge of their food production. Ms. Mamatha emphasized the power of self-sufficiency, encouraging the participants alike to grow fresh vegetables at home, reducing reliance on external sources, and ensuring nutritious food for their families. Mr. Balakrishna highlighted the long-term benefits of this initiative, urging everyone to see the seeds as the beginning of a journey toward better health, savings, and a sustainable future. The active involvement of Anganwadi and ASHA workers from the Primary Health Center transformed this initiative into a community-driven effort, where both women and youth played essential roles. By empowering the people of Mengubaiguda with the skills for sustainable food production, the project has fostered self-reliance, improved nutrition, and significantly reduced household food costs. This collaborative approach is sowing the seeds for a healthier, more resilient future for all generations.



The participants successfully planted 10 varieties of seeds in their kitchen gardens. The first harvest brought in an impressive 3 kgs of fresh green leafy vegetables and 4 kgs of beans per household. Additionally, tomatoes, brinjal, and ladies' finger plants have started blooming, promising a steady supply of nutritious vegetables in the weeks ahead. For youth in the community, this achievement not only represents a shift toward food security and healthier lifestyles but also demonstrates the power of young people in shaping a self-sustained future. Through this initiative, CYDA is developing independence, sustainability, and resilience, with the youth being integral to driving this transformation. The involvement of young people in the project encourages them to take ownership of their future and become catalysts for change in their communities. This approach is empowering the next generation to embrace sustainable farming practices and contribute to the long-term prosperity of rural communities.

Sustainable Futures for Youth Through Goat Rearing initiative

On February 2, 2025, CYDA launched a transformative initiative in Asifabad, empowering young women through sustainable goat rearing. This initiative targets women and also engages the youth in learning essential skills in animal husbandry, boosting their involvement in sustainable farming practices. The youth, as future leaders in their communities, are encouraged to take an active role in this initiative, ensuring that both young and older generations benefit from the financial independence.



Together, 25 women-led households have been provided with essential training and each received 5 livestock, for a total of 100 animals, to build sustainable goat-rearing practices. "Led by Dr. Murali Krishna, Mandal Veterinary Officer, and 15 Community Resource Persons, the initiative highlighted goat rearing as a powerful tool for boosting financial stability and developing self-reliance in rural communities. This endeavor is paving the way for greater economic independence and resilience for women in the region. Dr. Murali Krishna commended CYDA's efforts, praising the initiative as a powerful step towards economic independence for rural women. He highlighted how this program provides families with the resources and knowledge needed to build sustainable livelihoods. The event was not only about providing goats but also equipping participants with essential skills in animal husbandry, helping them improve livestock management and productivity. The women and youth have gained valuable skills and a sense of community ownership, with active participation in training sessions and discussions. In addition, a safety net has been established for the beneficiaries, with each goat covered by insurance worth Rs.525/-, ensuring financial protection against potential losses. The success of this initiative has sparked interest among other community members, especially youth, who see the potential to expand the program and positively impact even more households.

This initiative has sparked interest among youth and other community members, highlighting the potential for expansion. The success of the project shows the possibility of scaling up to benefit even more households, further strengthening the financial independence of rural women. Through this inspiring initiative, CYDA is empowering women and also inspiring the youth to take charge of their future, contributing to the resilience and growth of rural communities. This is a crucial step in fostering the next generation of sustainable farmers, ensuring that both women and youth play a key role in shaping the future of agriculture.



HRDP's Organic Farming Exposure Visit Inspires Youth in Asifabad

On December 11, 2024, the HRDP project team, in collaboration with Krishna Sudha Academy, organized an inspiring Organic Farming Field Exposure Visit in Asifabad, aimed at empowering the next generation of farmers. This visit was designed to give young people practical, hands-on experience in organic farming techniques. Dr. Lavakusha, Head of Krishna Sudha Academy, and Mr. Bhairav, Agriculture Incharge, shared their expertise, highlighting the power of sustainable farming practices, stressing the importance of organic cultivation, soil conservation, and eco-friendly pest management. The exposure visit gave the team a deeper understanding of crucial topics like bio-resource preparation, soil health management, and pest control methods that protect the

environment. This knowledge is now being used to introduce Cotton Demo Plots among tribal farmers, showing how sustainable practices can not only boost yields but also improve profitability. For young people in the region, this initiative represents a key opportunity to engage with modern farming methods that are environmentally conscious and financially rewarding. By equipping the youth with these skills, the HRDP project is paving the way for a future where eco-friendly farming becomes a central part of rural prosperity. This approach is inspiring the next generation of farmers to embrace sustainability and play a pivotal role in shaping their communities' agricultural future.



AI Students Shine at Cognizant's Volunteer Outreach Program

On February 15, a group of 9 talented AI students from CYDA gathered at Cognizant's corporate office in Hinjewadi, Pune, for an inspiring exposure visit that left everyone filled with excitement and ideas. The event was about showcasing the technical skills; and also it was a celebration of creativity, problem-solving, and the vital connection between education and industry.

The volunteer outreach Felicitation Program, led by Mr. Uday Kulkarni, Deputy General Manager and other representatives of Cognizant served as a platform to highlight the power of mentorship, knowledge-sharing, and collaboration in the tech world. The day revolved around the theme of 'Code Without a Computer,' encouraging students to think beyond just coding syntax and focus on logical thinking and structured problem-solving – skills that are essential for every tech innovator. Students showcased their journey in Python programming and app development, sharing how guidance from Cognizant mentors helped turn concepts into real-world applications. Through hands-on experiences and presentations, these AI students demonstrated their growing expertise, as well as the immense value of mentorship and industry exposure in enhancing both technical and professional growth. The event was a learning experience and also an opportunity to celebrate impactful collaborations too.



CYDA was proudly recognized as Best Partner to Cognizant Outreach underscoring the positive influence such partnerships have on the future of education and skill development. The exposure visit was a turning point for the students, who walked away with new knowledge and confidence to innovate and pursue even greater heights in their tech careers. It was a reminder that the real power of technology lies in the logic and problem-solving skills that drive innovation – and that these skills can be honed with the right mentorship, guidance, and opportunities. The event was a celebration of growth, a stepping stone to future tech careers, and an example of how education and industry can come together to shape tomorrow's leaders in technology. Students shared their experiences about the Code without Computer course conducted by Cognizant volunteers. CYDA staff expressed heartfelt gratitude for the continuous support from Cognizant staff and their voluntary contributions to the STEM ILC. Mr. Bhushan Pawar, the lead of the Outreach Program at Cognizant, remarked, "Your presence made the event even more special, and we truly appreciate your participation



THE PULSE OF YOUNG INDIA

BANK ACCOUNT DETAILS

Bank Name - SOUTH INDIAN BANK LTD.

Account Holder Name - CENTRE FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT & ACTIVITIES

Account No. 0147053000016574

IFSC Code - SIBL0000147

Branch - MOLEDINA ROAD, CAMP, PUNE

MICR Code - 411059002

CONTACT/INFORMATION

Contact no. : +91 87677 34511

Email ID: secretary.cyda@gmail.com

Address: CYDA India 2nd Floor,
Atur House, Ambedkar Road, Camp,
Pune.

DONATE ONLINE ON:

cydaindia.org/donate/

FOR MORE DETAILS,

SCAN THE
QR CODE

