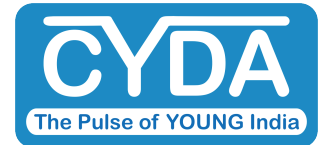


THE PULSE OF YOUNG INDIA



Voice of Youth from Grassroot

HIGHLIGHTS:

How Youth Sparked a Green Miracle in Chikhalgaon's Village Schoolyard

Empowering youth through play, learning, and collaboration for a Healthier Tomorrow

Exploring the Future: Youth insights from a transformative AI industry visit to Cognizant

STEM Awareness Workshops Empowers over 300 youth parents in PCMC Schools

STORY OF THE MONTH

How Youth Sparked a Green Miracle in Chikhalgaon's Village Schoolyard



A forest begins to grow—right in a dusty schoolyard. Atlas Copco, in collaboration with the Centre for Youth Development and Activities (CYDA), has brought new life to Zilla Parishad School in Chikhalgaon, a small village in the Mulshi block. Once a barren patch of dry land, the schoolyard is now home to a thriving Miyawaki forest—310 trees growing together to create a dense, self-sustaining ecosystem.

For years, the school lacked even basic greenery. The exposed land worsened heat, degraded the soil, and limited learning opportunities for students.

What makes this forest special?

The Miyawaki technique, pioneered by Japanese botanist Dr. Akira Miyawaki, focuses on planting native trees close together to simulate natural forest growth. The benefits are many: **Rapid growth:** Forests mature 10 times faster and become 30 times denser than conventional plantations. **Biodiversity boost:** Layers of native plants—from groundcover to canopy—encourage rich biodiversity. **Climate resilience:** Improves soil health, increases moisture retention, and reduces local temperatures. This project was a true community effort. Students, teachers, local youth villagers, and the Gram Panchayat all took part in preparing the land, planting saplings, and now caring for the young forest.

Key outcomes already visible include:

Doubling of tree height within months. Blooming of fruiting plants like guava and long beans. Noticeable cooling effect and increased soil moisture. Return of birds, butterflies, and other wildlife. Environmental education has also taken root, with students actively involved in watering, monitoring growth, and learning about local ecology. Environmental education has also taken root, with students actively involved in watering, monitoring growth, and learning about local ecology.

Looking Ahead

Inspired by the success of this initiative, the Gram Panchayat is exploring similar Miyawaki forests in other parts of the village. This small forest in Chikhalgaoon has become a symbol of what's possible when corporate responsibility, expert guidance, and grassroots participation come together. Together, we are not just planting trees—we are planting the future.



Empowering youth through play, learning, and collaboration for a Healthier Tomorrow



On April 19, 2025, Centre for Youth Development and Activities in collaboration with Persistent Systems Limited and the Persistent Foundation, organized an event “Adolescents Splash: Engage, Play and Learn” at RIET Engineering College, Shiroda, Goa. The event brought together 90 enthusiastic adolescent participants from various schools and communities to engage in interactive sessions emphasized on WASH (Water, Sanitation, Hygiene) and Life Skills education. The event was graced by several distinguished dignitaries, including Mr. Siddhesh Naik Kurade, Center Head, Goa & Vice President, Persistent Systems Limited, Ms. Akshata Gawas, CSR Lead, Persistent Foundation, Mr. Sachin Shirodkar, Director, RIET Engineering College, Mr. Benjamin Rocha, Headmaster, School of Symbiosis, Ms. Saachi Amonkar, Senior Executive HR, Persistent Systems Limited and Ms. Shabnam Aga, Headmistress, MIBK School, along with CYDA personnels. Also, seven employees from Persistent Systems Limited and fifteen school teachers, contributed to the learning and engagement activities. Mr. Siddhesh, in his keynote message, emphasized the importance of adolescence as a formative phase where values, discipline, empathy, and a quest for lifelong learning begin to take root. He highlighted the significance of such interactive platforms in shaping socially responsible and confident young citizens. Reflecting the positive experience. One of the adolescent’s from Keshav Smriti High School, Dabolim, shared how participating in the street play on social issues was both educational and confidence-boosting. It gave them a chance to express their views on national issues while learning from peers.

The event successfully educated adolescents on hygiene, sanitation, and essential life skills through engaging methods such as street plays, quizzes and WASH-themed games. It also provided a valuable platform for adolescents to voice their perspectives, develop teamwork, and strengthen collaboration between schools, educators and supporting organizations. Participants demonstrated increased awareness of WASH, life skills, and global issues such as climate change. Adolescents actively engaged in competitions and group activities, gaining confidence, leadership, and communication skills. Most importantly, the event developed strong partnerships between schools, CSRs, and youth organizations, reinforcing a shared commitment to community development and adolescent empowerment.

Exploring the Future: Youth insights from a transformative AI industry visit to Cognizant

On April 12, 2025, 25 youth from CYDA's AI and Data Science program visited Cognizant, gaining valuable exposure to real-world applications of Artificial Intelligence. The visit offered hands-on learnings through live demonstrations, expert-led sessions, and detailed departmental overviews, allowing students to connect classroom knowledge with industry practices in data analytics, cloud computing, and project management. The students explored how AI drives decision-making, innovation and business solutions across industries. A key highlight was a visual presentation outlining evolving job roles, future-ready skills and fields with strong growth potential. This gave youth, insights into the changing job landscape and helped them understand how to align their learning paths with global tech demands. The students were able to connect their academic learnings with practical industry practices, particularly in areas such as data analytics, cloud computing and project management. Mr. Bhushan Pawar, Technological Architect at Cognizant, led an informative session on the role of AI in modern industries, while Mr. Borra Muralikrishna, Sr. Associate Projects - Artificial Intelligence and Analytics, conducted a session on job readiness in AI and Data Science. Their guidance helped students grasp the relevance of AI skills, industry expectations and how to prepare for emerging career opportunities.



The visit also included a tour of collaborative workspaces, where students observed how corporate teams operate and share ideas in real-time. This platform enhanced the technical understanding of youth and also offered a realistic view of corporate culture and teamwork in tech-driven environments. The visit concluded with a reflection session where students shared how the experience provided clarity, motivation and direction for their future careers. The interaction with industry experts and exposure to AI in practice inspired students to pursue their goals with renewed confidence, making the visit a pivotal step in their professional journey.

STEM Awareness Workshops Empowers over 300 youth parents in PCMC Schools

As part of the "STEM in Schools" program supported by EMpower, a series of impactful Parent Awareness Workshops has been held across four Pimpri Chinchwad Municipal Corporation schools. The initiative reached a total of 331 parents, which aimed to build a deeper understanding of the value of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) education, with a special emphasis on supporting girls' participation in these critical fields. Parents were introduced - how STEM education builds essential 21st-century skills such as critical thinking, creativity, and problem-solving and how it opens doors to diverse and rewarding career opportunities. STEM booklet in a simple language was distributed to ensure accessibility and comprehension, allowing parents from all backgrounds to actively engage with the subject matter.



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The event witnessed a positive shift in parental attitudes, with many expressing a newfound commitment to supporting their children’s learning—especially encouraging their daughters to explore STEM pathways. These workshops ignited important conversations around inclusive education and also strengthened the bond between families and schools, promoting a more collaborative approach to student success. This initiative marks a meaningful step toward building a future-ready generation and ensuring that both boys and girls have equal opportunities to thrive in the fast-evolving STEM landscape.



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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

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