

Empowering Youth for a Sustainable Tomorrow

ODISHA CONFERENCE OF YOUTH (OCOY) 2023



NEWSLETTER | SPECIAL EDITION



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DEAR PARTICIPANTS, ENTHUSIASTS, AND CLIMATE ADVOCATES,



**ODISHA
CONFERENCE
OF 9-11 AUG 2023
YOUTH** AIC NALANDA
BHUBANESWAR

We are thrilled to welcome you to a groundbreaking event that heralds a new era of environmental consciousness and youth empowerment - the Odisha Conference of Youth 2023! With great pride and excitement, we present the first-of-its-kind conference, dedicated to the paramount issues of our time: climate change and sustainable living

The Odisha Conference of Youth 2023 represents a unique convergence of minds, uniting young individuals from all walks of life who are passionate about advocating for environmental stewardship. We recognize that the challenges we face today demand unconventional approaches, bold ideas, and a collective determination to make a difference. Thus, this conference will serve as a melting pot of ideas, experiences, and perspectives, where participants will engage in insightful discussions, knowledge sharing, and collaborative brainstorming.

A particularly groundbreaking aspect of this year's conference is its trailblazing focus on promoting a sustainable lifestyle through veganism. By embracing this philosophy, we acknowledge the profound impact our dietary choices have on the environment, animal welfare, and human health. We believe that through informed choices and conscious decisions, we can reshape the world we inhabit. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all the participants, speakers, sponsors, and organizers who have come together to make this event possible. Your dedication and enthusiasm underscore the importance of our shared mission. Together, we are sowing the seeds of change that will sprout into a greener, more sustainable world.

As we embark on this journey of discovery, learning, and transformation, let us remember that the future is not just a destination - it is a creation. And together, we have the power to shape it into one that is thriving, harmonious, and balanced.

Welcome to the Odisha Conference of Youth 2023 - where ideas flourish, connections blossom, and change begins.



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CONTENTS

- Cover Story: Youth4Water Plus organizes OCOY 2023!
- Event Highlights
- Youth & guest speaks
- OCOY in News
- Photo Gallery of OCOY 2023

**In solidarity for a
sustainable
tomorrow,**

Anwesa Dutta, Punyasloka Panda, Abhishek Mani, Archana Soreng, Heeta Lakhani, Sidharth Rath, Stalin Nayak, Soumyadip Dewanji, Aprajita Ashish, Deepan Digal, Bishnupriya Pradhan, Satyabrata Samal, Manoranjan Behera, Parvati Murmu and Prasamit Kanungo

- OCOY 2023 Committee Members

Cover Story

YOUTH4WATER PLUS ORGANIZES OCOY 2023!



YOUTH IN ACTION

Youth4water Plus successfully organized the Odisha Conference of Youth 2023 (OCOY), bringing together 150 young individuals from Odisha, India, in collaboration with partners like the Ministry of Environment, UNICEF, Y20, G20, and international organizations like the Animal Climate Health Save Movement. The conference focused on climate and environmental concerns, emphasizing a unique vegan lifestyle approach, a first for the state. A youth statement was crafted based on three-day deliberations.

OCOY wouldn't have been possible without the contribution of our esteemed partners including Rotary club of Eco Bhubaneswar, ClimAct, PANTISS Foundation, Sattvic Soul Foundation, FORCE, AIC-NITF, Sant Nirankari Charitable Foundation, Odisha Live, IFI, Youth for Sustainability, Asja, Antaranga Foundation, Prelude, Mycitylinks and BPE. What sets this conference apart is its unique focus on a vegan lifestyle, making it the first of its kind in the State. A youth statement was crafted, encapsulating the insights and resolutions drawn from the three-day deliberations.

The conference was attended by UNICEF Odisha Chief, William Hanlon Jr. Dr. Lenin Mohanty, Chairperson of OTDC, who served as the Chief Guest. The keynote address was delivered by District General Rtn. Jayashree Mohanty. Prominent Ollywood celebrities Anu Choudhury, Naina Das, and Pritiraj Satapathy were present. Anmol Sovit, Chair of Y20, graced the occasion with his presence. The closing ceremony of the conference was truly a momentous occasion as it was graced by the esteemed presence of Chief Guest Dr. Amar Patnaik, Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha, and Guest of Honour Akash Das Nayak, Mo College Chairperson.

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

DAY 1 : 9TH AUGUST 2023 INAUGURATION AND ENGAGEMENT

The conference began with an impactful opening ceremony that included the participation of notable figures:

Chief Guest: Dr. Lenin Mohanty, Chairperson of Odisha Tourism Development Corporation (OTDC)

Keynote Speaker: District General Jayashree Mohanty

Special Appearances: Bollywood celebrities Anu Choudhury, Naina Das, and Pritiraj Satapathy

Y20 Chair: Anmol Sovit.

On the inaugural day, the schedule comprised panel deliberations involving young climate advocates, who explored diverse facets of climate and the environment. The day's standout moment came with the presentation of the acclaimed documentary "Maa Ka Doodh," crafted by Dr. Harsha Atmakuri, which illuminated pressing environmental concerns. Archana Soreng, former United Nations Secretary General's Youth Advisory Group on Climate Change, conducted a session on Indigenous youth perspectives and their understanding of climate change effects

Archana emphasized uniting indigenous youth's cultural revival and climate action. Merging heritage with modern strategies offers holistic solutions to combat climate change and preserve traditions.

Panel Discussion: Integrating Youth Action for Climate Empowerment into Nationally Determined Contributions

Panellist: Adv. Ankita Ganga Deb, Associate, Y20; Gokul Rajendran, CEO, Govardhan App; Prof. Vinayak Salunkhe, Assistant Manager Outreach, Earth Day Network India; Moderated by Shreya KC, Advisor for Nepalese Youth for Climate Action

In a dynamic panel discussion, experts, youth leaders, policymakers, and activists convene to merge youth efforts with Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) for impactful global climate action. The importance of NDCs is stressed, along with involving passionate and innovative youth urgently. Diverse panelists showcase youth-driven successes, innovative solutions, and grassroots movements. Strategies for integrating youth into NDC processes are explored, fostering an enabling environment. Urgency in climate action is underlined, inviting collaboration to ensure a sustainable future through NDC-aligned youth contributions.





Key Takeaways from the activity for youth

- Astaranga beach plogging raised teen awareness on trash impact and spending habits.
- 5 quintals of trash were collected by youth and collected by garbage service.
- Casuarina tree benefits and drawbacks for climate change learned.
- Youth acknowledge community's role in addressing climate disasters.

DAY 2- 10TH AUGUST 2023: FIELD VISIT AND REAL-WORLD INSIGHTS

Participants were taken on a field visit to Astaranga in the Puri district of Odisha. The aim was to provide them with a firsthand experience of climate-related challenges, adaptations, and mitigation strategies. The field visit aimed to enhance participants' understanding of the real-world implications of environmental issues.



DAY 3- 11TH AUGUST 2023: ADVOCACY, COLLABORATION, YOUTH-LED SOLUTIONS AND FUTURE IMPLICATIONS

Parallel workshops on film making, climate friendly cooking and effective use of social media was led by experts Dr Harsha Atmakuri, Jayalaxmi Rai and Avishek Jagdev respectively

Panel Discussion: UN/Government Processes on Climate Action – Global Context on Youth and Climate Action and Roadmap to COP

Panellist: Shivani Mehta, Climate Change & Sustainability Expert, Majhi Vasundhara, DoEF&CC, Govt. of Maharashtra; Srishti Singh, Consultant, Climate and Youth Engagement, UNICEF; Moderated by Heeta Lakhani, Founder & Director, ClimAct Foundation & Co-Founder, Youth Negotiators Academy

Youth-driven climate action takes center stage, influencing UN and government policies. This panel unites academics, activists, politicians, and youth leaders to explore global youth engagement. Emphasis on youth participation in international climate protocols, showcasing campaigns' impact, and guiding COP decisions. The discussion covers overcoming obstacles, harnessing youth energy, and sustaining engagement. The goal: intergenerational cooperation for effective climate action.



Panel Discussion: Green Jobs and Skilling – Climate Change Policies at the National Level

Panellist- Omm Priyadarshi Chhotaray, Treasurer, G20 Youth; Neelima Mishra, Founder, Ceiba Green Solutions; Deepan Digal, COO, PANTISS; Puranjay Sahu, Change Leader, TATA STRIVE; Siddharth Bhattar, CEO, Karkhana; Moderated by Stalin Nayak, CEO PANTISS Foundation.:-

Linking green jobs, climate policy, and skilled labor, a diverse panel discusses sustainable development. Renewable energy, sustainable agriculture, and more fields offer greener employment. Emphasis on upskilling, diversity, and youth-led initiatives. Green jobs' transformative power for a sustainable future is highlighted, urging integration into national policies for economic growth and environmental preservation.





Thematic Group Discussions: Exploring Extreme Climate Events, Biodiversity Conservation, and Water Scarcity

The day was dedicated to collaborative group work on three themes –Extreme Weather Event, Biodiversity Conservation, and Water Scarcity.

Facilitated by experts, discussions covered:

- Causes of extreme climate events, climate change's role, and mitigation.
- Biodiversity hotspots, human impact, conservation strategies, indigenous knowledge.
- Water scarcity causes, impacts, sustainable management, governance, and community-led solutions.

Youth Statement and Outcome

Three days of engaging discussions, panels, and collaborations shaped a comprehensive youth statement. It incorporates participants' views, concerns, and solutions, aiming to inspire action and drive change

The successful Youth4Water Plus Odisha Conference of youth united youth to discuss pressing climate and environmental issues. The event showcased youth passion, innovative ideas, and partnership collaboration. With dignitaries' support, it initiated impactful conversations and actions, laying the foundation for future environmental awareness and reform efforts. The youth statement will be read in various national and international conferences like LCOY, COP 28, Bangkok youth conference, World Food forum among others. This will highlight the issues and solutions from Odisha, India.





Q&A Session with Youth: Conversations on Youth Engagement and Leadership

An interactive Q&A session spotlights youth engaging with influential leaders in governance and empowerment. Moderated by Sujit Mahapatra of Bakul Foundation, the discussion delves into youth's policy shaping, leadership growth, and Odisha's future. Youth interact with leaders on education, climate, and more. Panelists, including Akash Dasnayak, Chairperson, Mo College, Government of Odisha, and Dr. Amar Patnaik, Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha, and William Hanlon Jr, Chief of Field Office, UNICEF Odisha, share insights on youth leadership, education, entrepreneurship, policy, and climate action. The intergenerational dialogue explores bridging age gaps.

The session's message: teamwork, empowerment, and shared responsibility, driving positive change in Odisha and beyond.

There were 15 OCOY outreach events held in the entire State and the winners of the competitions held were awarded by our esteemed chief guests.



YOUTH & GUEST SPEAKS



Dr. Amar Patnaik, Rajya Sabha MP, gave an inspiring valedictory talk. It's encouraging to see youth leading climate and environmental efforts. The Youth4Water Plus Odisha Conference of Youth shows that our youth are not merely worried about climate change; they are fighting it."



Mo College Chairperson Akash Das Nayak said, Education is essential for raising eco-conscious people. Policy and grassroots activities must work together, according to this conference. Together, we can make a difference."



Odisha Conference embodies unity, youth, and purpose. Our commitment to sustainability drives us. Together, we strive for climate policy, biodiversity preservation, zero-waste living, and resilient food systems, as change agents shaping tomorrow's world. – Heeta Lakhani, ClimAct Foundation Founder & Director, Youth Negotiators Academy Co-Founder.



"We defy climate change's hold on our future. Challenges won't deter us; we'll innovate, collaborate, and adapt. Let's turn ideas into action, educate, and unite for sustainability. The Odisha Conference inspires us to safeguard our world's future." – Hrushikesh Pradhan, 27, Founder of Antaranga Foundation.

YOUTH & GUEST SPEAKS

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"I call upon you to be the change you wish to see in the world. Embrace the Youth4Water Plus campaign, let your voices be heard, and let your actions speak louder than words. Together, we can create a world where water is protected, and our planet is cherished. Together, we can be the catalysts for a global movement towards climate action and a sustainable future", said William Hanlon, Chief of Field Office, UNICEF Odisha.



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Shri. Lenin Mohanty, OTDC Chairperson, Govt. of Odisha, delivered an inspiring opening speech. Youth-led projects are driving sustainability discussions, as evident in the Youth4Water Plus Odisha Conference. Our youth aren't just concerned about climate change; they're actively combating it.

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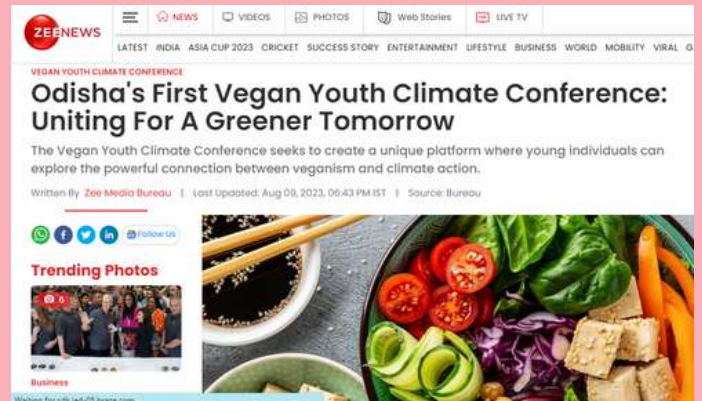
Sustainability is a duty, not a choice. Our actions today shape the world for generations ahead. The Odisha Conference unites us with knowledge, creativity, and a commitment to safeguarding the planet. Let's go beyond words, crafting solutions that resonate beyond these walls." – Bishal Mohanty, 21, OCOY Youth Delegate.



OCOY IN **BREAKING NEWS**



Odisha Barta



Zee News



Odisha Bytes



Sambad



Odisha Plus



Mo Sahara



Odisha Conference of Youth 2023 full movie





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YOUTH
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BHUBANESWAR



UNITED NATIONS
INDIA

unicef
for every child



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As we engage in Odisha Conference's discussions and workshops, recall our boundless power to enact change. Challenges propel us to redefine possibilities. These youth delegates aren't just participants; they're a potent natural force, armed with zeal, wisdom, and unwavering belief in our transformative impact.

Shreya KC, Nepalese Youth for Climate Action Advisor.

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