



YOUTH 4 WATER
PLUS

Newsletter

Youth4Water

VOLUME 9 Plus JULY 2025

"Those who contemplate the beauty of the earth find reserves of strength that will endure as long as life lasts." – Rachel Carson



Newsletter
Youth4Water
 VOLUME 9 PLUS JULY 2025

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Message from Youth4Water Plus

Dear Readers,

The past quarter has been a remarkable chapter for the Youth4Water Plus campaign, marked by dynamic youth-led action & powerful collaborations. We kicked things off with a **Heatwave Awareness Campaign**, flagged off by *Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister of Odisha, Smt. Pravati Parida*, from the heart of Bhubaneswar to its most vulnerable corners, is reaching out to people with vital information and support.

YCLAP 2.0 wrapped up with some major love for our youth climate champs. *Smt. Anu Garg, IAS*, gave a big shoutout to all the local-level legends showing up and standing strong against climate chaos. **MERAKI 2.0** brought forward young changemakers who brought their A-game, launching green startups that are saving the planet, showcasing innovation in sustainability.

We also commemorated key days such as **World Environment Day**, where the launch of **OCOY 3.0** brought together youth from all **30 districts of Odisha**.

These moments reflect the unwavering spirit of youth transforming challenges into climate solutions. Huge thanks to every single partner, mentor, and volunteer who made this all possible. And a *special shoutout* to *Pratyusa Mahapatra* for vibing with us and editing this newsletter.

Together, we continue to build a future where youth are not just heard but lead the way toward a more climate-resilient Odisha.

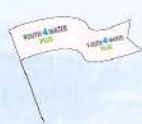
With gratitude & excitement,

The Youth4Water Plus Team 💙🌟



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**Deputy CM
flags off**



Beat the Heat
A Mobile Heat Wave Awareness Campaign



With temperatures rising thanks to climate change, extreme heat is hitting hard, messing with public health, water access, and daily life. It's hitting hardest in urban slums, where folks are the most vulnerable. So, raising awareness becomes totally essential.

That's why the Youth4Water family pulled up with the *Heatwave Awareness Van Campaign*—rolling through *Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, Khordha, and Puri* to spread the word. This mobile campaign was designed to educate urban communities on the risks of heat waves and share practical tips on how to stay safe, conserve water, and adapt to changing climate conditions. The van visits slums, hangout spots, and educational institutions to spread vital messages using posters, catchy audio jingles, and interactive demos.

We officially hit the road on 7th April 2025, flagged off by *Hon'ble Deputy CM Smt. Pravati Parida* at Gita Gobinda Sadan, Bhubaneswar. Also in the house were *Mr. Sugata Roy* from *UNICEF Odisha* and *Ms. Shipra Saxena, WASH Specialist at UNICEF India*, hyping up the youth squad to own this mission.



Right after the launch, a special training session was conducted for 60 youth volunteers, who got trained up as Heatwave Leaders. Trainers from institutes like *IIT Bhubaneswar, UNICEF, Bakul Foundation, and NYP Odisha* gave them all the tools to take action. These trained youth are now spreading awareness in their communities alongside the mobile van, creating a ripple effect of climate consciousness across the state.



The campaign reached over 1,00,000 people across 120 vulnerable locations through partner organisations like *CCW, Jiban Jyoti Parishad, and Radio Bulbul*. Creative approaches such as *Street Plays (Nukkad Nataks)* and other engaging communication tools are being

used to make the campaign effective and impactful, ensuring the message resonates with diverse audiences across different communities.

While the Heatwave Awareness Van was doing its rounds, the squad didn't stop there. Across Odisha, tons of heatwave-fighting activities kicked off—thanks to our amazing partner orgs who were all in. It all started on 1st March 2025, when we launched the "Joint Action Plan for Heatwave Interventions" as part of the Youth4Water Plus campaign. The goal was to reduce the impact of heatwaves and support field-level actions through coordinated efforts by youth and civil society organisations.

That same day, we held a high-energy planning session where youth leaders and grassroots orgs linked up to plan it out. The room was buzzing with ideas and real action strategies, with everyone bringing their A-game to tackle the climate crisis head-on.

Some of the MVPs at the table included YAR, Akash, Jeevan Rekha Parishad, STAR, Radio Outreach, CCW, YSD, IYSARA, UDYAMA, and Radio Bulbul. Each crew proposed comprehensive plans that covered water distribution where it's needed most, awareness drives that actually connect with people, quick repair missions for local infrastructure, and community mobilisation that gets everyone involved. These collaborative efforts demonstrated the power of youth-led initiatives when they come together with a shared vision of climate resilience and community support.





From April 1st to 10th, 2024, a squad of 15 bold youth from Kalahandi took on the Nag Tibba Himalayan trail in Uttarakhand. The goal? Loud and clear: *Trek for Glacier Preservation*. At 3,022 meters (that's 9,915 feet, btw!), they reached the summit with heart, grit, and the Youth4Water Plus banner held high—sending a message loud enough to echo across the valleys: protect glaciers, protect our future.



Odisha's young changemakers are out here doing the most, literally climbing mountains to raise awareness about climate change and glacier loss. This epic trek was inspired during World Water Day (April 22, 2022), when youth called out the real crisis: melting glaciers + vanishing water sources = big problems.

Youth4Water Plus is a youth-led movement focused on water, climate action, and environmental justice. This trek is a strong example of how youth are taking meaningful action, not just talking about change, but walking for it, literally. Their effort places Youth4Water Plus on the climate action map, reminding us to support and celebrate the energy and dedication of young change makers.



In a major win for marine life, youth leaders teamed up with *Sattvic Soul Foundation* for a 12-day awareness campaign takeover at *Podampeta Beach, Ganjam*; and it was all about protecting our endangered turtle family and their nesting grounds.

The mission was to educate the local community on why turtles are essential for ocean vibes and how human stuff (like pollution, lights, and beach traffic) messes up their natural flow.

Led by the amazing *Mr. Satyabrata Samal*, a squad of 22 passionate youth volunteers showed up big time. From sunrise to moonlight, they literally had the backs of thousands of baby turtles, guiding them safely from their nests to the ocean, dodging predators and danger like pros. And the result was achieved - Over 50,000 baby turtles made it to sea, safe and sound.

Meetup PRACHI with SHEVGAONKAR

On 14th April 2025, our Youth4Water Plus family got a serious boost of inspirations during an epic interactive session with *Prachi Shevgaonkar*, the powerhouse behind *Cool the Globe*.



25 youth warriors showed up and showed out—sharing their personal stories of how they vibe with nature and the awesome climate actions they've been leading. From local cleanups to big advocacy moves, the energy was unmatched. Prachi dropped major wisdom, opening up about her journey and giving us all the motivation to keep going, keep growing, and keep speaking up for the planet.

SIRD&PR, Odisha presents

7-Day Induction Training Programme

for Block Level Coordinators



We were hyped to be part of a 7-day induction training for *Block Level Coordinators* at *SIRD&PR, Odisha*—all about levelling up grassroots governance and community impact. During the programme, we had an interactive session with the participants where we highlighted the vital role of ponds in sustaining the life and livelihoods of rural communities.

We talked about how important it is to protect these local water bodies, not just for their ecological role, but because of the deep emotional and cultural connections people have with them. To keep those connections alive, we encouraged participants to collect and share stories about their community ponds—how they've been used, celebrated, and even fought for. Now we're turning those collected memories into something special: the *Pond Story Booklet 2025*—a tribute to local knowledge, lived experiences, and water wisdom.

Just a day before Earth Day, we hit the ground running literally with a cleaning drive at *Khandagiri*, a heritage hotspot! Teaming up with *Sattvic Soul* and *Youth for Seva*, 42 fired-up youth volunteers showed up bright and early at 6:15 AM and didn't stop till 10:45 AM.

During the event, we all took a heartfelt pledge to keep our tourist places clean and to stand up for Mother Earth in the fight against climate change.

To top it off, a really interesting climate change awareness session had everyone reflecting, learning, and feeling more empowered to protect our planet, one action at a time.

Earth Day 2025 Cleaning Drive at Khandagiri



SEEDBALL – MAKING SESSION as part of Earth Day 2025

On *Earth Day 2025*, we brought the green vibes to Durgapur Village with a super fun and hands-on seed ball-making session, in collab with SOS Children's Village, Bhubaneswar. The mission was simple: spread eco-awareness + make learning fun.



During the session, children enthusiastically prepared colourful seed balls using soil, compost, seeds of Bakul (*Mimusops elengi* Linn) and Krishnachura (*Delonix regia*), and turmeric powder as a natural colouring agent. They learned about the importance of greenery, tree plantation, and eco-friendly practices, along with how to dry and store the seed balls for use during the rainy season by throwing them on barren or open land. The activity combined creativity with purpose, making the learning enjoyable while inspiring children to contribute to a greener and healthier planet.

As part of this year's *Earth Day* theme—"Our Power, Our Planet"—the amazing folks from ASHA KIRAN rolled out some powerful climate awareness sessions across schools and colleges in the district. From Surabala High School, Kujanga Block to Bapuji Nodal Bidyapitha, Balia, and Bijay Chand Sanskrit College, Samagola, students got real about what's hurting Mother Earth—and more importantly, what we can do about it.

Earth Day 2025 School-Level Awareness Session at Jagatsinghpur District



Led by session champs *Khulana Behera* and *Kalyani Swain*, the session emphasised the use of solar and bio-energy, rainwater harvesting, and the need to protect biodiversity. At the end of each session, students took a pledge to protect the environment and contribute to a safer and greener future.



YCLAP Youth Climate Leaders Action Project

Closing Ceremony

On 20th April 2025, the vibes were high at Bakul Foundation for the epic closing ceremony of YCLAP (Youth Climate Leaders Action Project). The event had a power-packed guest list, with Smt. Anu Garg, IAS, Development Commissioner-cum-Addl. Chief Secretary, as the Chief Guest. This wasn't just a wrap-up—it was a showcase of fire ideas and fearless youth.

8 youth-led climate projects took centre stage, each one unique, practical, and full of innovation. With guidance from amazing mentors, these young climate champs tackled real-world problems with real-world solutions. From eco-education to green tech, their stories hit hard, sharing struggles, wins, and community impact that left everyone in the room inspired. The Chief Guest and other dignitaries gave major props to the youth leaders, calling their work creative, committed, and worth scaling up & also made the Big promise of support & momentum to take these actions even further!



Held on 25th May in Chudanga (Daruthenga GP, Khordha), the event brought together climate-conscious youth and hive-minded experts to explore how beekeeping equals jobs plus sustainability goals. Organised by a dream team of UNICEF, Youth4Water Plus, OUAT Bhubaneswar, SOS Village, Jeevan Rekha Parishad, and BGVS Odisha, this day was packed with real talk, skills training, and sweet inspiration.



Prof. Ramnath Mohapatra and Dr. Prabhasini Behera from OUAT kicked off the tech session, breaking down the benefits of honey and how bees are a bio-boost for local economies. Then came the hands-on magic when Mr. Susanta Kumar Sahoo showed everyone how to take care of bee boxes like a pro. Career tips were also covered as Tata STRIVE hosted a session on skilling up and turning beekeeping into a legit career. The highlight moment came when 5 trained youth got their own bee boxes to kickstart their apiary journey.

Before the big day, a youth interaction session went down on 17th May, where 5 bee colonies were installed thanks to Mr. Sahoo from Shree Honey, Pipili. Mr. Sudarshan Mohanty from SOS led the on-ground coordination, while curious youth got a crash course in beekeeping. The energy was unmatched as participants dove deep into understanding how these tiny powerhouses could transform their communities.



The day was filled with inspiring voices sharing their wisdom. Ms. Shipra Saxena, WASH Specialist from UNICEF, set the tone with a reminder that youth plus sustainability equals climate game changers. Binod Aloda from SOS Village shared how bees can support both nature and income, creating a perfect balance between conservation and livelihood. Dr. Manoranjan Mishra dropped some serious honeybee-entrepreneurship inspiration from Dasapalla, while Mr. Pradeep Mohapatra from UDYAMA wowed everyone with folk tales about nature conservation and spreading bee wisdom that resonated deeply with the participants.



35 youth from Chudanga, Pitagadia, and Krushnagar showed up, trained up, and levelled up in this honey-powered campaign. The enthusiasm was infectious as young minds connected the dots between environmental stewardship and economic empowerment. Mr. Blorin Kumar Mohanty wrapped it all up with a heartfelt vote of thanks, sharing hopes that Chudanga becomes a role model for youth-led climate action and green livelihoods, inspiring other communities to buzz with similar energy and purpose.



On 18th June 2025, the BGVS State Office turned into a full-on creative zone where 20 art students from Dhauli, B.K. The College of Art and Crafts and Kalinga College of Art pulled up with their brushes to make climate change loud and visual.



With canvas as their voice, they painted powerful messages about the environment, turning facts into feels. A super inspiring talk by Shri Pradeep Mohapatra from UDYAMA, who hyped them up to use art as a tool for climate action. It wasn't just about making pretty pictures—it was about repping the planet and showing how today's youth rolls deep when it comes to saving the Earth.





meraki

A Joint Initiative by Youth4Water Plus & AIC-Nalanda

Final Pitch Day

The MERAKI Program, Youth4Water Plus's flagship innovation jam wrapped up its latest phase with major vibes at *Bakul Foundation* on 14th May 2025, and it was nothing short of fire. This initiative brought together Odisha's smartest, most driven youth to tackle real-life climate challenges like water scarcity, waste management, and clean energy.

At the closing ceremony, the youth entrepreneurs dropped truth bombs about their journeys, sharing wins, lessons, and big dreams. From water-saving hacks to green-tech ideas, they showed up with purpose and passion, pledging to spark more youth-led action across Odisha.

Art for Awareness

Breaking the Taboo.

A Painting Workshop on Menstrual Hygiene Management

On 25th May 2025, the vibes were on point at *Balasore-Bhadrak Central Co-operative Bank* as 25 young artists came together for a bold & meaningful painting workshop, hosted by *May I Help You*, *Youth4Water Plus*, and *BGVs*.

The theme was *Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM)*, and before diving into their art, the participants got a quick but powerful orientation to really understand the issue. From taboos to awareness, their canvases spoke volumes. The final artworks weren't just dope—they carried purpose, and were showcased during the *Menstrual Hygiene Day Conclave* at *IIT Bhubaneswar* on 28th May 2025.



We're super hyped to share that the powerful artworks of 25 talented young artists were featured at the transformative *Conclave on Menstrual Health & Hygiene* at *IIT Bhubaneswar*. Hosted by *IIT Bhubaneswar* and kick-started by *Smt. Pravati Parida*, *Hon'ble Deputy CM of Odisha*, the event brought major energy with organizers like *Dr. Seema Bahinipati*, (*Independent Director, IIT Bhubaneswar Research and Entrepreneurship Park*), *Mr. William Hanlon Jr.* (*Chief of Field Office, UNICEF Odisha*), and *Ms. Shipra Saxena* (*WASH Specialist, UNICEF*). The vibe was pure inspiration. The paintings didn't just sit on easels — they spoke, sparked conversations, and got tons of love from everyone present.





WORLD
ENVIRONMENT
DAY



World Environment Day 2025 in Odisha was a whole movement, not just a moment. With the global theme “Beat Plastic Pollution”, the Youth4Water Plus crew turned up the climate action vibes across the state! From youth and women to entire local communities, everyone got involved to protect the planet and push for real, lasting change.



The squad kicked things off with a plogging drive at *Khandagiri Caves*, where youth cleaned up the space and had chill-but-powerful convos with visitors about plastic pollution. Over in *Keutajanga*, the energy was high with a placard rally shouting out marine life and calling out plastic waste.

The launch of *OCOY 3.0* and *YCLAP 3.0* in Bhubaneswar, with forest officer *Karthick V, IFS*, and actress *Anu Choudhury* hyping up youth-led climate action. The day also saw massive tree plantation drives in villages like *Chudanga*, *Palanka*, *Pratappur*, and *Keutajanga*, with fruit and native saplings to boost biodiversity and local livelihoods. In *Chudanga*, 54 kids and youth pledged to become tree guardians, while *Palanka* planted older saplings to ensure they thrive.

And let's not forget the women-led plantation drive in *Jagatsinghpur's Paradip industrial belt*, kicking off year-round greening goals. WED 2025 wasn't just a celebration—it was proof that when youth and local communities come together, real change roots.



True *leaders* clean up, not mess up
Be One! Take Charge!



WORLD
ENVIRONMENT
DAY





Messages from Friends of Youth4Water Plus



Bees might be tiny, but they're total MVPs when it comes to pollination, biodiversity, and keeping our food systems alive. But thanks to climate change, pesticides, and shrinking green spaces, they're seriously struggling. That's why World Bee Day hit different this year. I got to be part of an amazing collab with Jeevan Rekha Parishad, Youth4Water Plus, and UNICEF—we weren't just talking the talk, we planted trees, installed bee boxes, and trained local youth on safe, sustainable beekeeping. Five bee boxes are now buzzing, fully run by young locals, blending income generation with climate action. Beekeeping isn't just a side hustle—it's a way to vibe with nature and protect the planet, one bee at a time.

~ Mr. Manoranjan Mishra, Director, Jeevan Rekha Parishad

Menstruation is natural, but still taboo in many parts of India. On World Menstrual Hygiene Day, we joined Youth4Water Plus and "May I Help You" to raise awareness in Balasore. Youth, artists, and educators came together to talk openly, conduct painting events, and distribute eco-friendly pads. We discussed how menstrual hygiene connects with water, climate, and gender. I truly feel that youth-led campaigns like this are breaking the silence and creating change. Menstrual health is human health. Let us keep the conversation going to end shame, build dignity, and ensure no one is left behind because of their period.



~ Mr. Ubachak Mohanty, Founder, May I Help You, Balasore

OCOY 3.0

9-11th August, 2025

ODISHA CONFERENCE OF YOUTH



Building Next Gen Climate Leaders



YOUTH 4 WATER PLUS



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