



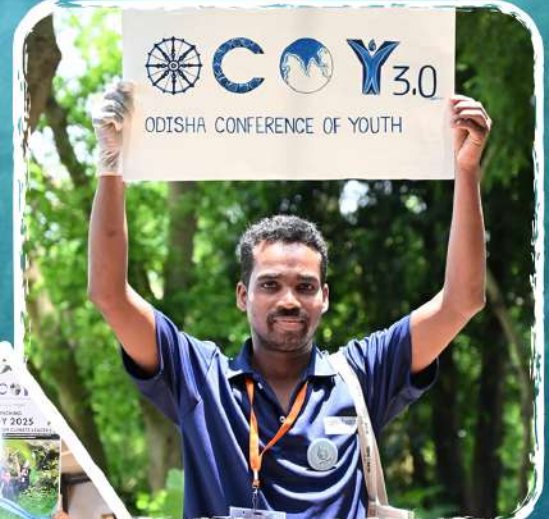
# Youth 4 Water plus

## NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 10  
OCTOBER 2025







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# Message from Youth4Water Plus



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## Dear Readers,

This quarter has been all about fresh energy, new partnerships, and bold youth action through the **Youth4Water Plus Campaign**. With more partners, over 60 passionate youth volunteers, and milestone events, our efforts are expanding across Odisha and beyond, driving community-led climate action.

We kicked off with a **Partnership Meeting** on June 24th, where **50+ organisations** came together to boost grassroots impact. Districts buzzed with Pre-OCOY clean-ups, awareness drives, and community action on climate issues.

Our youth volunteers have made a real impact this quarter by reviving waterbodies, planting trees, leading nature trails, celebrating festivals in an eco-friendly way, and spreading sustainability messages through stories and social media, in line with the Government of India's **Mission LiFE**.

The highlight was **OCOY 3.0 (August 10–12 at ASBM University)**, where **150 young people** from all **30 districts** of Odisha came together to tackle climate challenges and co-create solutions with experts and advocates. **Hon'ble Governor Dr. Hari Babu Kambhampati** inaugurated the event, and the valedictory session was graced by **Hon'ble Minister Shri Ganesh Ram Singh Khuntia**, reflecting strong government support for youth-led climate action.

Bringing in a global angle, we also partnered with **195in365**, a Grenada-based organisation, to amplify Odisha's youth voices at international platforms like the COPs, ensuring local action connects with global conversations.

This quarter is proof of what happens when young people unite with purpose- Resilience grows, solutions emerge, and hope multiplies. A *big shoutout* to **Tanvee Bhattacharjee** for creatively shaping this newsletter. As we move forward, we're excited to deepen partnerships and inspire even more youth to drive a greener, more sustainable future.

With gratitude & excitement,  
The Youth4Water Plus Team 💙✨





# Odisha Conference of Youth 3.0

## A MILESTONE IN YOUTH CLIMATE ACTION

The Odisha Conference of Youth (OCOY 3.0), held from August 10–12, 2025, at ASBM University, Bhubaneswar, was more than just a conference; it was a movement of young voices and ideas uniting against the greatest challenge of our time: **Climate Change**. Organised under the **Youth4Water Plus campaign**, the three-day event brought together **150 youth delegates from all 30 districts of Odisha**, along with academicians, researchers, practitioners, and policymakers.

The event was inaugurated by His Excellency, Hon'ble Governor of Odisha, Dr. Haribabu Kambhampati, who applauded the role of youth in building sustainable futures. His message: urging young people not just to raise their voices but to act in their communities, set the tone for the days ahead.

### Day 1: Setting the Stage

The opening day began with vibrant cultural performances celebrating Odisha's heritage and connection with nature. Expert panels highlighted urgent climate challenges like rising heatwaves, urban flooding, and coastal vulnerability, therefore reminding participants that local problems are tied to global issues, and youth must be part of the solutions.



### Day 2: Skills and Solutions

Day two was all about action. Through interactive workshops and the breakout sessions, delegates explored themes like pond restoration, eco-friendly lifestyles, waste management, and green skilling. Using many participatory methods, they exchanged ideas & designed community-specific action plans, linking their work to global frameworks like Paris Agreement and Sustainable Development Goals.





### Day 3: Youth Ideas in Action

On the final day, youth groups presented their innovative ideas- from climate-smart agriculture to awareness campaigns in schools and villages. The valedictory session, attended by Hon'ble Minister Shri Ganesh Ram Singh Khuntia, celebrated their creativity and commitment. He encouraged delegates to turn their ideas into real-world impact, reaffirming the government's support for youth-led climate action.

OCOY 3.0 proved that when young people come together with passion and purpose, they can transform challenges into solutions and hope into action.

### Launch of the "30 by 30" Campaign

A landmark moment of OCOY 3.0 was the launch of the "30 by 30 Campaign." The vision: take the OCOY model to every Indian state by 2030, with each state hosting its own youth conference in sync with the global COP process. This bold step turns OCOY into a national movement for youth-led climate action.



### The Youth Statement: A Collective Commitment

One of the most powerful outcomes was the jointly prepared Youth Statement. It captured the aspirations and commitments of Odisha's youth: calling for stronger climate education in schools, recognition of youth as decision-making partners, restoration of water bodies, eco-friendly livelihoods, and scaling up of Mission LiFE across communities. This document will guide future action and advocacy.





## Beyond the Conference: Ripples of Change

Though OCOY 3.0 concluded on August 12, the momentum continues. Delegates have returned to their districts with renewed energy- leading clean-up drives, awareness sessions, and community dialogues. For many, the conference was a life-changing experience, turning learning into local action.

## A Step Toward the Future

Over the three days of OCOY 3.0, we were honoured by the presence of key dignitaries and speakers including Mr. Pradeep Ghosal (Tata Power CODL), Mr. K.S. Pradeep (Director, Environment, Govt. of Odisha), Mr. Arun Krishnamurthy (Founder, Environmentalist Foundation of India), Mr. Pratham Golcha (Founder, Cinque), Ms. Karina Malczewska (WASH-CCES Specialist, UNICEF India), Ms. Abha Mishra (State Head, UNDP Odisha), Mr. Sujit Mahapatra (Founder, Bakul Foundation), Mr. Stalin Nayak (CEO, PanTISS Foundation), Mr. William Hanlon Jr. (Chief, UNICEF Odisha), Shri Akash Das Nayak (MLA, Korei), and many others— whose insights and leadership inspired the youth to drive meaningful climate action across Odisha.





## Saans ki Keemat Nukkad Nataak

Draws 1,000 Eyes to Climate Awareness

On 13 July 2025, Youth4Water Plus staged Saans Ki Keemat (The Price of Breath) at Nexus Esplanade Mall, Bhubaneswar, drawing nearly 1,000 viewers. The street play exposed the dangers of deforestation, oxygen scarcity, and pollution, while children's dance and cultural performances spotlighted biodiversity and the urgency of saving trees. It showcased plant-based biodiversity themes central to Youth4Water Plus. Supported by UNICEF Odisha and Udyama, the play proved that powerful storytelling can spark climate awareness in urban spaces.



## Clicking\*CLIMATE

Youth Photo & Reels Walk Inspires Action

On 13th July 2025, Youth4Water Plus organised a Climate Photo & Reels Walk at Anandaban, Bhubaneswar, emphasising that "photography had a role in protecting the climate in its own way."

Guided by Mr. Dharmananda Sundaray, Mr. Pradeep Mohapatra (Udyama), and Mr. Sourav Bhattacharjee (UNICEF Odisha), participants documented local biodiversity, landscapes, and visible climate changes. Young photographers from different Colleges participated and captured the richness of biodiversity, native flora, sunrise landscapes, and visible ecological changes. Twelve participants transformed their observations into creative reels and photo stories, spreading climate awareness digitally with the best entries showcased and awarded at OCOY 3.0, highlighting the role of visual storytelling in climate action.

## Youth Engage in Climate Action at Berhampur University

On 15 July 2025, Youth4Water Plus teamed up with the Department of Environmental Science at Berhampur University for a climate engagement session. Professor B. Anjan Kumar Prusty, Head of the Department, highlighted pressing issues such as air quality deterioration, biodiversity loss, and the urgent need for research on micro-level climate issues, emphasizing the student-led initiatives and translating knowledge into actionable solutions.





Shri Pradeep Kumar Mahapatra, Secretary of Udyama, shared practical insights on climate and natural resource conservation, motivating participants to adopt sustainable practices. Youth4Water Plus complemented the session with an awareness drive. Interactive activities pushed students to link knowledge with real-world solutions, sparking a call for student-led climate initiatives.

## Youth Lead Pre-OCOY Preparations @ Rama Devi Women's University.



On 16 July 2025, nearly 100 students gathered at Rama Devi Women's University, Bhubaneswar, for a Pre-OCOY 3.0 session. The event not only built excitement for the upcoming youth conference but also encouraged participants to adopt small-scale climate actions. Youth committee members shared how their involvement in OCOY 2024 had inspired projects like a chemical-free chocolate initiative, which they showcased by distributing samples. Student leaders from various departments were tasked with spreading conference information and organising small group discussions, fostering peer-to-peer learning, engagement, and a sense of responsibility toward climate action.



## Coastal Youth Champion Climate Resilience in PURI

On 17 July 2025, Youth4Water Plus, in collaboration with MARS, engaged 97 youth from cyclone-prone Brahmagiri and Kanash blocks of Puri. The initiative aimed to engage local youth in understanding climate challenges, share grassroots experiences, and introduce them to OCOY's mission.

Participants discussed the increasing frequency of cyclones and their impacts on livelihoods, while showcasing their efforts in planting Salt Cedar to enhance biodiversity, conserve soil, and strengthen coastal resilience. The session ended with a collective oath to restore degraded lands, promote sustainable livelihoods, and strengthen coastal resilience, making climate action a community-wide commitment.





## Planting **Seeds of Change** Youth Lead **Climate Action** in **GANJAM**

On 19 July 2025, Youth4Water Plus carried out its climate awareness efforts at the Anchalika Mahavidyalaya, Jagannathprasad (Ganjam District), engaging 100 enthusiastic students in a mix of discussions and a plantation drive. The initiative aimed to educate youth about climate change, the importance of environmental stewardship, and their own role as grassroots change-makers. Principal Mr. Nursinga Ch. Pradhan encouraged students to commit to meaningful climate action and highlighted the upcoming OCOY 3.0 as a platform for amplifying youth voices. The plantation drive, combined with interactive discussions, successfully reinforced environmental responsibility, inspired youth participation, and fostered a sense of collective commitment toward sustainability and the preservation of local biodiversity.



## Youth **Ignite GREEN ACTION** in **Kalahandi**

As part of the Pre-OCOY 3.0 activities, Seba-Jagat organised a district-level youth conference on 20th July 2025 at Madanpur Rampur block, Kalahandi, bringing together 107 young participants along with lecturers, school heads, PRI representatives, and local leaders.

Satyanarayan Pattanaik, Secretary of Seba-Jagat, led an interactive session on climate change, while Uresh Choudhury, Zilla Parishad Member, inspired the audience by highlighting the idea of green villages. Other sessions spotlighted critical topics such as water conservation and forest diversity.

A hands-on seed ball and plantation activity in the local forest gave participants the chance to directly contribute to environmental protection. The program not only raised awareness but also sparked collaboration among youth and motivated them to take proactive roles in safeguarding their communities and natural resources.

## Youth *mobilise* for **Climate Action** in **Nayagarh**

To expand the reach of the Youth4Water Plus campaign and boost local climate action, a series of youth-focused events was organised in Nayagarh District. On 24th June 2025, in Daspalla Block, Sudipta Kumar Sahoo, Youth Volunteer of Youth4Water Plus, led a one-day orientation program on climate change, green energy, and sustainable practices. The interactive session brought together 25 adolescent girls and boys, who joined in with enthusiasm during discussions and Q&A sessions on solar energy, community conservation, and sustainable living. The program wrapped up with a powerful call to action, motivating participants to step up as ambassadors of change and actively drive the creation of climate-resilient communities through their involvement in OCOY 3.0.





## MSW Students take Pledge for Climate Action

On 10th July 2025, the MSW Wing of Swami Vivekananda Residential College, Pokhariput, felicitated the Campaign Manager of Youth4Water Plus after an engaging session on the role of MSW students in creating awareness on climate change. Prof. Raghunath Mondal welcomed the Youth4Water Plus team, stressing the importance of youth-led climate initiatives.



The session showcased how social work students can step up as community educators, mobilisers, and advocates for sustainable development. Around 60 students participated enthusiastically and closed the interaction by taking a pledge to adopt small but impactful climate actions in their daily lives and communities. The felicitation honoured the campaign manager's efforts in inspiring young people to lead awareness and grassroots action for a sustainable future.



## Youth Change Makers drive Climate Action during Rath Yatra in PURI

During the world-famous Rath Yatra in Puri, Youth4Water Plus changemakers blended tradition with climate action. A 60-member team, led by Harish Chandra Pattanaik, Suryakant Nayak, and Manisha Behera, managed ambulance services to support devotees with emergency care. Meanwhile, 15 youth, led by Biswajit Beura and Sai Krishna Nayak, stayed in Puri from 25–30 June to lead beach clean-ups, curb littering, and engage visitors on the upcoming Odisha Conference of Youth (OCOY) and climate initiatives. Their efforts showed how youth can weave cultural celebrations with sustainability.

## Youth Connect FOREST CONSERVATION with Tradition @Ameda

At Ameda Gram Panchayat, young volunteers used the symbolism of the chariot to spotlight the dangers of forest degradation. Alongside plantation drives, they spread the word about the upcoming Odisha Conference of Youth (OCOY) 3.0 and urged residents to take climate action. Their efforts demonstrated how cultural symbolism and hands-on activities can effectively drive community engagement and youth-led climate initiatives.



*Don't wait for a leader. Become One. Don't wait for a movement. Start One.*



## Beyond the **SCREEN**

ASBM's **Climate Awareness Dialogue.**

On 1st August 2025, ASBM University hosted a Climate Awareness Program that used film screenings to spark conversations on urgent environmental issues. Short films on climate challenges set the tone, with Professor Swagat Patel highlighting how youth can use digital content to spread awareness. Abhishek Mohanty shared insights on the role of turtles in maintaining aquatic biodiversity and why their protection is critical.

Adding to this, Tanmaya Kumar Das and Sanskarsri Sakti Shekhar Mishra led an interactive discussion on plastic pollution, simple reduction practices, and the upcoming OCOY 3.0, motivating students to step up and act for the climate.



## More Than a Game: **CLIMATE BINGO** Sparks Action at **XIM**

On 16th July 2025, the School of Sustainability at XIM University hosted "Climate Bingo": an innovative awareness session led by Youth Committee member Sanskruti Balabantaray and her team. The interactive game turned climate education into a fun, collaborative experience, covering themes like water conservation, renewable energy, plastic reduction, and low-carbon lifestyles. Students from diverse disciplines joined in, exploring serious challenges while uncovering simple, practical solutions. The session boosted enthusiasm for sustainable practices, inspired personal responsibility, and built momentum for the upcoming OCOY 3.0.

## **Green Heroes @Khordha** Students Pledge to **Protect Mother Earth**

On 17th July 2025, Jay Rajguru High School, Jemadeipur, Khordha, came alive with a plantation drive led by young leaders Biswajit Beura, Sai Krishna Nayak, and their team under the Youth4Water Plus campaign. Supported by the Forest Department and teachers, students enthusiastically planted saplings, pledging to protect Mother Earth. With plantation declared a key mission of the campaign from next year, the drive will run with full energy till September, spreading from cities to rural belts across Odisha.



## **Planting a Promise: Reforestation Success Stories from Gajapati and Rayagada**

In Gajapati's Gosani Block, OCOY delegate Rabindra Kumar Gamango and his peers prepared a nursery of 100 fruit-bearing plants and planted them on their school campus during the monsoon. What began as a seven-day effort grew into a larger mission, as they later collaborated with the Horticulture Department to plant saplings along village roadsides. In Rayagada, youth teams backed by the Sarpanch of Dambalo and Ameda Panchayats and the Forest Department planted 500+ native trees across schools.



## Spotlight. Youth4Water Plus Partners Unite for Climate Action



On 24th June 2025, Youth4Water Plus hosted its annual Partners' Meeting at Bhuvaneshwar Club, bringing together 50+ organisations from 30 districts to celebrate collaboration and align efforts for OCOY 3.0. Ms. Subhrasima Mohanty opened the meeting, followed by Ms. Shipra Saxena, UNICEF Odisha, who appreciated contributions to initiatives like YCLAP, Meraki, and plantation drives. Campaign Manager Dharmananda Sundaray shared OCOY 3.0 updates and opportunities for partner engagement. The highlight was dynamic partner presentations showcasing grassroots work and commitments for 2025–26. In the afternoon, Mr. Pradeep Ghosal led an interactive session on scaling youth-led action and mobilising resources, leaving participants energised for the road ahead.

**GLOBAL COLLAB with 195in365**   
Youth4Water Plus Partners with 195in365 for Climate Action.

During OCOY 3.0, Youth4Water Plus joined hands with 195in365: The Youth-Led Climate Action, a global initiative founded by Johann Hoschtialek. Rooted in the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals, 195in365 seeks to unite young leaders across the globe to spread awareness, provide education, and mobilise youth for climate action.



With an ambitious mission to travel to 195 countries in 365 days using sustainable means of climate action, the initiative engages directly with communities worldwide. Johann and his daughter Jovana brought powerful global perspectives to Odisha, inspiring youth to link grassroots efforts with international movements and scale up their advocacy for a climate-safe future.









# Messages from Friends of **Youth4Water** Plus



I believe that youth-led transformation must stand on three strong pillars: awareness, education, and rehabilitation. When young people are informed, included, and supported, they can take restorative action that truly addresses the climate crisis. Across the world, I see youth uniting to “make a change” through sustainable travel, renewable energy, and grassroots mobilisation. Together, we can create a climate-safe future.

~ **Johann Hoschtialek**, Co-Founder, 195in365



x



**Calling all youth champions!**

Are you, or someone you know, actively working on issues related to water, the environment, or climate change?



We want to hear from you! Share your details with us at **[youth4watercampaign@gmail.com](mailto:youth4watercampaign@gmail.com)**, and you could be featured in our next edition as a contributor!