

## Youth4Water Plus Unites for Sustainable Solutions at Sisir Saras Mela 2024



The Sisir Saras Mela 2024 in Bhubaneswar, Odisha, India witnessed a remarkable stall hosted by the Department of Panchayati Raj and Drinking Water Department (PR&DW), in collaboration with Youth4Water Plus and the National Cadet Corps. Running from January 6th to 15th, 2024, at Biju Patnaik Play Ground, Baramunda, Bhubaneswar, this unique stall aimed to educate visitors on crucial topics like Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH), climate, and environmental awareness.

### Stall Overview

The stall, a focal point of learning and interaction, operated daily from 11 AM to 9 PM, offering an engaging space for visitors to explore the significance of sustainable practices. The stall featured vibrant displays, communication collaterals, and a captivating crocodile model crafted from waste materials by talented students of ITI Bhubaneswar.

### Educational Initiatives

**Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH):** The stall highlighted the State government's efforts in water and sanitation, focusing on Swachh Bharat Mission 2 (SBM 2) and Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM). A 3D model effectively illustrated the key aspects of these initiatives, providing visitors with a tangible understanding of the government's commitment.

**Youth Involvement:** Volunteers from Youth4Water Plus and the National Cadet Corps played a pivotal role in making the stall a lively hub of interaction. Energetic engagement with community members through quizzes centered around WASH and climate awareness was facilitated by U-Report India. This dynamic involvement of youth volunteers not only enhanced the learning experience but also showcased the collective effort to spread awareness.

**Artistic Expression:** An extraordinary crocodile model stole the spotlight at the stall, serving as a living example of how waste can be transformed into meaningful artifacts. Crafted by the



skilled students of ITI Bhubaneswar, this eye-catching masterpiece not only excited visitors but also conveyed a powerful message about the importance of recycling in a visually appealing manner.

### **Creative Competitions**

Youth4Water Plus took the initiative further by organizing engaging drawing competitions for children and youth. This allowed participants to express their creativity while imbibing valuable lessons about environmental responsibility. The joy on the faces of young participants underscored the success of incorporating fun into the learning process.

### **Collective Impact and Future Sustainability**

The stall transcended the boundaries of a traditional mela; it became a platform for promoting positive change. Whether young or older, every visitor had an opportunity to contribute to building a sustainable future. With an expected 0.2 million people in attendance, the stall aimed to make a collective impact by inspiring individuals to adopt environmentally conscious practices in their daily lives.

### **Conclusion**

In conclusion, the special stall by the Department of Panchayati Raj and Drinking Water Department at Sisir Saras Mela 2024 was not just an exhibition; it was a catalyst for education, creativity, and collective action. Through vibrant displays, interactive sessions, and artistic expressions, the stall successfully conveyed the importance of water and sanitation initiatives while promoting environmental responsibility. The involvement of youth volunteers added a dynamic element, making the learning experience both enjoyable and impactful. As the stall invited everyone to learn, create, and inspire change together, it left an indelible mark on the visitors, encouraging them to embrace sustainable practices for a better and greener future.



