



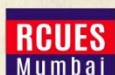
Report on

Strategic Interventions and Integrated Actions:

A compilation of activities conducted by DoECC, GoM and Maha-UWES-C on account of World Environment Day, 2023 and World Earth Day, 2023



Maharashtra Urban WASH & Environmental Sanitation Coalition



A report by

Maharashtra Urban WASH & Environmental Sanitation Coalition

a joint initiative of RCUES of AILSG, Mumbai, and UNICEF, Mumbai Field Office, is a platform to facilitate collaborative action in urban WASH and environmental sanitation.



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Abbreviations

AIILSG	All India Institute of Local Self Government
CACR	Citizens Association for Child Rights
CBOs	Community-Based Organizations
C&D	Construction and Demolition
DoECC	Department of Environment & Climate Change
ES	Environmental Sanitation
GoM	Government of Maharashtra
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MPCB	Maharashtra Pollution Control Board
MVA	Majhi Vasundhara Abhiyan
MV	Majhi Vasundhara
RCUES	Regional Center for Urban and Environmental Studies
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SEIAA	State Environment Impact Assessment Authority
SUP	Single Use Plastic
ULB	Urban Local Body
UN	United Nations
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
WASH	Water, Sanitation & Hygiene
WED	World Earth Day
WEnD	World Environment Day
YEWS	Youth Engagement and Water Stewardship

Glossary

Environmental Sustainability implies meeting our current needs without jeopardizing the right and the ability of future generations to meet theirs. Opportunities should be identified and taken to reduce the production of waste and the use of toxic materials, to prevent soil, water, and air pollution and to conserve and reuse resources, as feasible¹.

Climate change refers to long-term shifts in temperatures and weather patterns. These shifts may be natural, such as through variations in the solar cycle. But since the 1800s, human activities have been the main driver of climate change, primarily due to burning fossil fuels like coal, oil and gas. Burning fossil fuels generates greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions that act like a blanket wrapped around the Earth, trapping the sun's heat, and raising temperatures².

Youth is a vital demographic group that can play a prominent role in the nation's development. It is a population that has been prominently featured in 12 of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and with sufficient support, youth will be instrumental in fulfilling the SDGs³. The 'National Youth Policy of India' (2014) defines youth in the country as persons belonging in the age group of 15-29 years⁴.

¹ Elleuch, B., Bouhamed, F., Elloussaief, M. *et al.* Environmental sustainability and pollution prevention. *Environ Sci Pollut Res* **25**, 18223–18225 (2018) <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s11356-017-0619-5>

² <https://www.un.org/en/climatechange/what-is-climate-change>

³ National Youth Policy 2021:

<https://static.pib.gov.in/WriteReadData/specificdocs/documents/2022/may/doc20225553401.pdf>

⁴ National Youth Policy 2021:

<https://static.pib.gov.in/WriteReadData/specificdocs/documents/2022/may/doc20225553401.pdf>



Pravin Darade, IAS

Principal Secretary

Environment and Climate Change Department,
Government of Maharashtra

Foreword

Plastic is an integral part of our daily lives. Rising consumption of plastic has raised the severe issues of plastic pollution which not only affect living organisms but also raise serious concerns regarding soil and water pollution due to increasing accumulation of plastic waste in water bodies and landfills. With the launch of missions like LiFE Mission and Majhi Vasundhara Abhiyan, the Government of India and the Government of Maharashtra, respectively, have redefined the solutions to plastic pollution through increased community awareness and engagement.

Environment and Climate Change Department, Government of Maharashtra has been proactive in taking up initiatives related to environment conservation. The department launched a campaign called Majhi Vasundhara Abhiyan to localize climate action at state level through participation of local bodies and communities of the state. The Abhiyan has successfully completed three years with ever-increasing response from local bodies and is currently implementing its fourth phase. Government of Maharashtra is the only Indian state which is a part of the Global Plastic Action Partnership, an international platform to translate commitments to reduce plastic pollution and waste by taking a strong action. At present, the State Action Plan for Climate Change is under revision. The plan encompasses a range of activities that can be taken up by various sectors to reduce carbon emissions in alignment with India's net zero target year.

I appreciate the efforts taken up by Regional Centre for Urban and Environmental Studies of All India Institute of Local Self-Government, Mumbai for conducting a series of events to celebrate the World Environment Day, 2023 and the World Earth Day, 2023 with support from UNICEF, Maharashtra and documenting these efforts in the form of this publication for ensuring wider reach of the initiative.

The workshop conducted on plastic waste management and zero waste lifestyle was impactful and provided in-depth understanding of impacts of plastic pollution and alternatives to single use plastic to the attending urban local bodies of the state. The climate action briefs released on the world Environment Day will aid the youth in understanding the impacts of climate change and ways to undertake a sustainable lifestyle at their level. The climate anthem released will further encourage youths of the state to take a strong climate action.

Considering the significance of provisioning WASH and waste management infrastructure, Environment and Climate Change Department, Government of Maharashtra is committed to strengthen with support from Regional Centre for Urban and Environmental Studies of All India Institute of Local Self-Government, Mumbai through an MoU signed on the occasion of World Environment Day, 2023. Along with this, I extend my warm wishes to all the award-winning and participating local bodies of Majhi Vasundhara 3.0.



Sudhakar Bobade

Mission Director

Majhi Vasundhara Abhiyan

Foreword

Years ago, when plastic was invented, it was a boon, however, it soon became a curse. Manufacturing of plastic not only releases harmful gases, but plastic waste disposal is also yet critical issue. The persistent nature of plastic has affected the well-being of millions of human beings and other living organisms. As a result, it is imperative to tackle plastic and its impacts. While various national and international projects are in place to address plastic pollution, localized action is essential to create awareness among the community and to reduce plastic consumption.

As a pioneer, Environment and Climate Change Department, Government of Maharashtra have launched a holistic initiative, Majhi Vasundhara Abhiyan, to create citizen awareness and to take strong climate action at local level. The Abhiyan was initiated in October 2020 to conserve and protect the environment to deal with issues related to pollution viz., water, air, plastic. The campaign is in alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals and for the three years has been tackling climate emergency by carrying out extensive tree plantation, water and energy conservation initiatives, waste management activities, by conducting awareness events and by managing air pollution.

I would like to congratulate the award-winning local bodies of the Majhi Vasundhara 3.0 for their extensive work in environmental conservation and protection. Apart from this, the impacts of Majhi Vasundhara are collective efforts of all the participating local bodies and thus, I extend my warm wishes for their contribution to Majhi Vasundhara Abhiyan.

I would like to grab this opportunity to appreciate the Secretariat, Maharashtra Urban WASH and Environment Sanitation Coalition for signing an MoU with the Environment and Climate Change Department, Government of Maharashtra on the World Environment Day, 2023. The MoU will strengthen sustainable and climate resilient urban WASH infrastructure across the state while also building capacities of the local bodies of the state. Along with this, I acknowledge the efforts taken up by the Secretariat with support from UNICEF, Maharashtra to celebrate the World Environment Day, 2023 and the World Earth Day, 2023. It is indeed a pleasure to see a compilation of the activities conducted by the local bodies of the state to protect and conserve the environment.

I look forward to working with the RCUES of AILLSG, Mumbai with support from UNICEF, Maharashtra to support the Secretariat in strengthening WASH infrastructure and waste management initiatives across the state. I appreciate the team at the Secretariat for providing support and guidance for capturing these environment conservation initiatives in this document.



Rajeshwari Chandrasekar
Chief of Field Office,
UNICEF Maharashtra

Foreword

Plastic is a global issue and in order to phase out plastic, it is essential to move towards circular economy by banning Single Use Plastic and by recycling used plastic. UNICEF has been consistently supporting governments across the globe with various innovative initiatives that deal with plastic pollution. UNICEF has partnered with several organizations for reinforcing the circularity approach in plastic waste management by diverting plastic waste into infrastructure development in schools.

UNICEF Maharashtra is committed to supporting the Government of Maharashtra in addressing issues related to plastic waste management. The office has actively engaged with the Environment and Climate Change Department, Government of Maharashtra's mission, Majhi Vasundhara Abhiyan to localize climate action at state level through community and local body participation. The office is also supporting the Department to revise the State Action Plan on Climate Change (SAPCC) by convening departmental consultations to take multi-sectoral climate action across the state.

The World Earth Day and the World Environment Day provide an opportunity to create awareness regarding environmental conservation and protection. During the World Earth Week 2023, UNICEF Maharashtra along with the Coalition captured and highlighted green interventions taken up by the urban local bodies and development partners through the report, 'Sustainability and Environmental Conservation Practices in Maharashtra'. On the World Environment Day, 2023, UNICEF Maharashtra was actively involved with RCUES of AILSG, Mumbai in conducting a waste management workshop for the local bodies of the state and other stakeholders of the Coalition. The workshop was important to understand the impacts of plastic pollution and to reduce plastic consumption in order to live a zero-waste lifestyle. UNICEF Maharashtra commits to support the MoU signed between the RCUES of AILSG, Mumbai and the Department on the World Environment Day 2023 to strengthen the waste management infrastructure of the state.

Youth is an integral aspect of society in communicating environmental awareness and in recognition of this, UNICEF Maharashtra supported the development of climate action briefs to help youth understand the impacts of climate change and the ways to adopt a sustainable lifestyle. The office was also actively involved in releasing a Climate Anthem, composed by a dynamic group of young musicians, to acknowledge the efforts taken up by the youth of the state to address the issues of climate change. UNICEF Maharashtra along with CEE Pune have developed a youth-led platform to localize climate action under Majhi Vasundhara Abhiyan, SAPCC and Government of India's LiFE Mission.

I would like to congratulate the team at the Secretariat, Maharashtra Urban WASH and Environment Sanitation Coalition at RCUES of AILSG, Mumbai for developing a compilation of all the initiatives undertaken on account of the World Earth Day, 2023 and the World Environment Day, 2023.



Dr. Jairaj Phatak, IAS (Retd.)

Director General

All India Institute of Local Self Government

Foreword

Waste management is an integral aspect of development. Despite that, the majority of the waste produced ends up in landfills and incinerators while only a small part of the waste produced is recycled. As a result, the Government of India has launched various schemes and policies to tackle the issue related to waste management. Scientific treatment of waste and circular economy are rendered to be the major focus areas of these schemes and policies.

As a pioneer, All India Institute of Local Self Government has been in the forefront in providing support to the state and local governments through capacity building, research, advisory, implementation and IEC activities. AIILSG has always aligned its focus with the national and international programs and missions. AIILSG is also engaged in providing technical support to Urban Local Bodies for enhancing the existing Solid Waste Management systems.

On this World Environment Day, RCUES of AIILSG, Mumbai, with support from UNICEF Maharashtra, signed an MoU with the Environment and Climate Change Department, Government of Maharashtra to strengthen the WASH and waste management infrastructure of the state and to take localized climate action by building capacities of the local bodies of the state. Majhi Vasundhara Abhiyan is a flagship initiative of DoECC, Government of Maharashtra and the RCUES of AIILSG, Mumbai has been actively supporting this initiative since its inception. Along with this, climate action briefs were released with support from UNICEF, Maharashtra on account of World Environment Day, 2023 to take strong climate action at state-level.

In order to encourage and showcase the activities taken up by the local bodies of the state, Maharashtra Urban WASH Coalition with support from UNICEF, Maharashtra celebrated World Earth Day, 2023 by compiling all the environment-conservation activities of the local bodies.

I would like to thank the Environment and Climate Change Department, Government of Maharashtra, the urban local bodies of the state and other stakeholders of the Coalition for actively participating in the celebrations conducted on account of the World Earth Day, 2023 and the World Environment Day, 2023.

Executive Summary

The report is a compilation of activities taken up by the urban local bodies of the state and the development partners of the Maharashtra Urban WASH and Environmental Sanitation Coalition. The RCUES of AILSG, Mumbai with support from UNICEF, Maharashtra provided technical support to the stakeholders to conserve the environment and to promote sustainable development on the occasion of World Earth Day, 2023 and World Environment Day, 2023.

The themes for the World Earth Day, 2023 and the World Environment Day, 2023 were in sync with the Mission LiFE, Lifestyle for Environment, launched by the Government of India to protect and conserve environment.

The Environment and Climate Change Department (DoECC), Government of Maharashtra plays a pivotal role in promoting sustainable development and conserving the environment. For this, the department works closely with other key departments of the state to integrate their climate change adaptation and mitigation initiatives. At present, the DoECC is raising awareness among citizens and civic bodies of the state through its initiative, Majhi Vasundhara Abhiyan which focuses on the five elements of nature viz., Panchamahabhuta. The campaign aims to take strong climate action in a timely and innovative manner leading to environmental sustainability. Recently, on the occasion of the World Environment Day, 2023, the DoECC under Majhi Vasundhara 3.0 has felicitated and incentivized Urban and Rural Local Bodies of the state with a prize money of USD 21 million for their work on environment protection and sustainable development. Majhi Vasundhara Abhiyan 4.0 along with Majhi Vasundhara 4.0 toolkit to implement the mission were launched during the event.

During the same event, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the DoECC and the RCUES of AILSG, Mumbai with support from UNICEF, Maharashtra outlining strategic support for environmental sustainability-related interventions and to support to roll out the State Action Plan on Climate Change. The key focus areas under the MoU are to support Majhi Vasundhara Abhiyan and to strengthen the local body's interventions in WASH and Environmental sector. The Coalition has been supporting the DoECC to update and strengthen the revised State Action Plan on Climate Change and will continue to do so as a part of the signed MoU. On the other hand, Climate Action Briefs, prepared by UNICEF, Maharashtra with support from Centre for Environment and Education, Pune and RCUES of AILSG, Mumbai were released to generate awareness on climate change and to highlight the importance of a strong climate action in the sectors of water, waste, energy and biodiversity management at individual, community, and government-level.

The World Environment Day (WEnD), 2023 was celebrated by organizing a workshop on 'Zero Waste Living' in association with Skrap⁵ with support from UNICEF, Maharashtra. The workshop was organized for the urban local bodies of the state, the development partners of the Coalition, the youth and youth groups, and various other stakeholders. The workshop highlighted the importance of waste and the impacts of plastic pollution on the environment, human health and on the entire ecosystem. With the help of this workshop, the attendees were oriented about various ways to adopt a zero-waste lifestyle and to conduct zero waste events by reducing the amount of waste produced. The workshop highlighted the significance of waste segregation at household level and alternatives to plastic such as eco-friendly and organic products.

Youths are the future; they are not only the victims of climate change but are also valuable contributors to climate action. Understanding the significance of this, the Youth Engagement and Water

⁵ <https://www.skrp.in/>

Stewardship (YEWS) Programme has been launched and a total of 300 plus master trainers from 13 districts have been trained to roll out across 3058 colleges. On the occasion of World Environment Day, 2023, around 2000 colleges from across Maharashtra, 400 volunteers from IIT Mumbai, and over 400 MYCA youths participated in the waste collection and climate advocacy drive. Along with this, in order to raise awareness on climate action and environment conservation, UNICEF experts and youth associated with UNICEF spoke to different FM Radio channels including Akashvani with an outreach of approximately 2 million. On the other hand, Climate Anthem, a song produced by a youth group, was released on the occasion of WEnD to showcase the efforts taken up by youth of Maharashtra to conserve the environment. The Anthem was released by senior government officials from the Higher and Technical Education Department, Government of Maharashtra. The anthem has been released on various social media platforms and has over 60 thousand likes and views.

On the occasion of World Earth Day, 2023, the Secretariat compiled all the activities taken up by the urban local bodies of the state and the development partners of the Coalition to conserve the environment. The activities range from tree plantation to organic treatment of grey water, awareness activities and reuse and recycling of construction and demolition waste. Considering the diverse range of activities taken up to conserve the environment, it is clear that a lot of efforts are required to protect Mother Earth and every effort taken up counts.

The report contains detailed information of these activities taken up on the occasion of World Environment Day, 2023 and the World Earth Day, 2023 by the development partners and other stakeholders with support from UNICEF, Maharashtra.

OUTREACH FIGURES

67,000+

people were reached with messages on environment conservation and impacts of plastic pollution on account of World Earth Day, 2023 and World Environment Day, 2023 celebrations.

400+

urban local bodies involved.

200+

Partners and CBOs engaged.

The celebrations gained visibility from

60000+

users across social media platforms (Twitter and LinkedIn).

6500+

users across social media platforms (Twitter and LinkedIn).



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Introduction

Introduction

Background

Human existence is impossible without the presence of a healthy ecosystem. Considering this and to create awareness on environment conservation, the UN General Assembly designated 5th June as World Environment Day (WED) in 1972. The first celebration of the day was held in 1973 under the slogan, “Only One Earth” and since then the day has evolved as a platform to raise awareness on issues pertaining to environment. Celebration of this day has also enabled changes in policies at national, sub-national and international levels.

The theme for the World Environment Day, 2023 focused on ‘solutions to plastic pollution’ under the campaign #BeatPlasticPollution. While plastic has been one of the greatest inventions of mankind, it has become one of the greatest problems for mankind. More than 400 million tonnes of plastic is produced every year, half of which is designed to be used only once. Of that, less than 10 per cent is recycled⁶. The majority of the plastic that is manufactured ends up in our landfills, leaches into the ocean and/or is combusted into toxic smoke, making it one of the gravest threats to the planet.

However, science and solution have spruced hope; the celebration of the day showcased how countries, businesses and individuals are learning to use the material more sustainably. In order to make plastic pollution a history, the planet needs a surge of public and political pressure to scale up and speed actions from governments, companies, and other stakeholders from every corner of the world.

Global Platform to address Plastic Pollution

In September 2018, public and private partners came together during the World Economic Forum's Sustainable Development Impact Summit to officially launch Global Plastic Action for Partnership (GPAP). It is the World Economic Forum's platform to translate plastic pollution commitments into concrete action. GPAP harnesses the convening power of the World Economic Forum to bring together governments, businesses, and civil society to translate commitments into action at both the global and national levels.

The plastic waste has skyrocketed during COVID-19 pandemic due to extensive use of plastic masks, gloves and other protective equipment. However, our ability to tackle this waste has not; around 11 million tonnes of plastic leak into the oceans every year⁷. GPAP and its partners are creating a universal shift towards a circular economy for plastic pollution by replacing ‘take-use-dispose’ model’ with a closed loop approach throughout the plastics life cycle, from production to consumption to reuse. GPAP supports the development of locally owned, locally driven impact communities (Plastic Action Partnerships) that build on the proven multistakeholder approach and harnesses the skills and knowledge of the wider global plastic community to develop national action roadmaps and drive plastic action at scale.



⁶ <https://www.worldenvironmentday.global/about/theme-host>

⁷ <https://www.globalplasticaction.org/home>

Recently, Maharashtra has joined⁸ the growing list of global economies by signing a letter of intent with GPAP. This will help in developing multi-stakeholder partnership to address challenges around plastic waste management and will leverage the GPAP platform to drive localized solutions for the circular economy. Through this partnership, the state aims to advance regional efforts to fight plastic pollution.

LiFE Mission



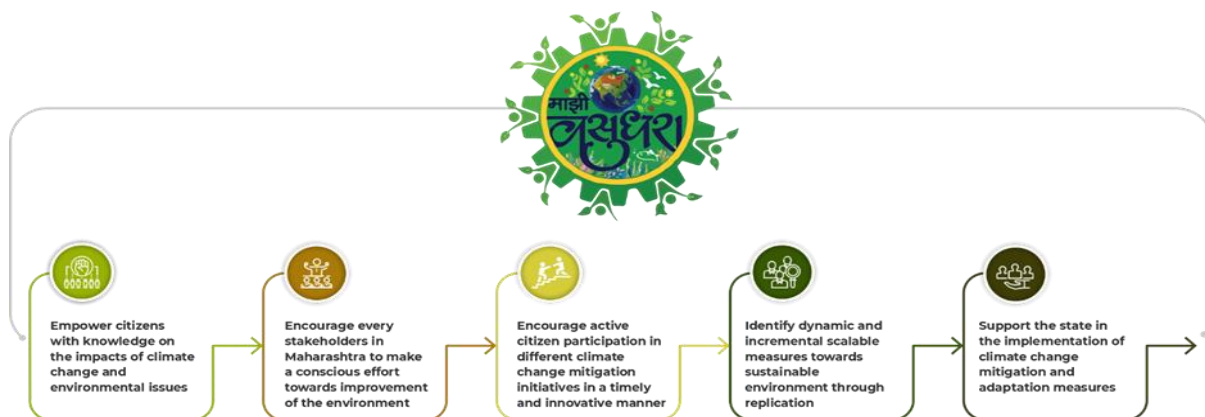
Mission Lifestyle for Environment is a public movement launched by Government of India to mobilize individuals to become 'Pro-Planet People'. The mission recognizes that Indian culture and living traditions are inherently sustainable and aims to channel these efforts of individuals and communities into a global mass movement of behavioral change that conserve natural resources and live in harmony with nature as emphasized in ancient scripture.

The mission is significant in the global fight against climate change wherein every individual should contribute to their respective capacities. The mission is based on seven themes and one of them is 'Say No to Single Use Plastic'. The mission reiterates the principles of 'Reuse, Reduce and Recycle' and focuses on circular economy.

Maharashtra: Initiatives to address Plastic Pollution

A holistic initiative to tackle climate change by focusing on waste management

To make citizens aware of the impacts of climate change and of environmental issues and to encourage them to make a conscious effort towards environment conservation, Department of Environment and Climate Change, Government of Maharashtra has launched a unique initiative, Majhi Vasundhara Abhiyan. The Abhiyan was launched in October 2020 and focuses on five elements of nature i.e., Panchamahabhuta, viz., Bhumi, Vayu, Jal, Agni and Akash. The Abhiyan aims to take localized climate action by involving local bodies of the state. While the Abhiyan aims to attain sustainable development of the state and to take strong climate action at state level, it also focuses on waste management with special emphasis on plastic waste management as a part of its toolkit.



⁸ <https://www.weforum.org/press/2022/05/india-s-economic-powerhouse-maharashtra-joins-the-world-economic-forum-in-the-fight-against-plastic-pollution/>

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Strategic Interventions **and Integrated Actions**

Say No to Plastic: World Environment Day Celebrations

Majhi Vasundhara Event

On the occasion of World Environment Day, [Majhi Vasundhara Abhiyan](#), Environment and Climate Change Department, Government of Maharashtra had conducted an event at NCPA, Mumbai to felicitate the local bodies and the government officers of the state who had actively participated in environment conservation activities. The event took place in the presence of Shri. Eknath Shinde, Hon'ble Chief Minister, Government of Maharashtra, Shri. Radhakrishna Vikhe Patil, Revenue Minister, Government of Maharashtra, Shri. Vijay Nahata, Chairman, SEIAA, Rahul Narvekar, Speaker, Vidhan Sabha, Shri. A. L. Jarad, Chairman, MPCB, Shri. Pravin Darade, Principal Secretary, Environment and Climate Change Department, Government of Maharashtra and Mr. Martin Maier, Consulate General of Switzerland. The event was attended by approximately 1000 participants inclusive of rural and urban local bodies from across the state and national and international partners.



Event video is attached here for further understanding:
<https://fb.watch/lzGUchHQb9/>

The details of these events are as follows:

Majhi Vasundhara 3.0

As a part of this Abhiyan, the participating local bodies have undertaken extensive activities viz., tree plantation, creation of green areas, promotion of electric vehicles, water body rejuvenation, water and energy audit, rainwater harvesting, drip irrigation, installation of solar water heaters and many more. The impact created as a result of these activities is as follows:



- 203.03 lakh trees planted cumulatively in MVA 1.0, MVA 2.0 and MVA 3.0.
- 16,714 new green areas created in urban and rural spaces
- Successful implementation of EV policy resulting in more than 2.47 lakh electric vehicles on roads cumulatively in MVA 1.0, MVA 2.0 and MVA 3.0
- MV 3.0 has resulted in 83 thousand tCO₂ sequestration and emission avoidance of 1.28 lakh tCO₂.

Cumulatively, MV1.0, MV 2.0 and MV3.0 have resulted in sequestration of 5.34 lakh tCO₂ and avoidance of 13.78 lakh tCO₂ emissions.

Taking cognizance of work done by the local bodies of the state under Majhi Vasundhara Abhiyan, the state office felicitates the local bodies and their officers on account of World Environment Day. This year too, Majhi Vasundhara event took place to felicitate the local bodies of Majhi Vasundhara 3.0 and to launch Majhi Vasundhara 4.0. During the event, the local bodies were felicitated at state and division level to boost maximum participation and efficient implementation of the Abhiyan. Along with this, officers at district-level (Collectors) and at Zilla Parishads (CEOs) have been felicitated at the state and division level to acknowledge their leadership and hard work during Majhi Vasundhara 3.0 timeline.

The event also celebrated the vision and diligence of Divisional Commissioners on the basis of best performing divisions during Majhi Vasundhara 3.0.

A list of the Majhi Vasundhara 3.0 awardees has been attached in annexure 1.



Lamp lighting ceremony at Majhi Vasundhara 3.0 event



Majhi Vasundhara 3.0 state-level award to Gunjalwadi Gram Panchayat, Ahmednagar, Nashik under Gram Panchayats (more than 10k+ population) category



Majhi Vasundhara 3.0 state-level award to Karad Nagar Parishad, Pune under Municipal Councils and Nagar Panchayat (50k to 1 lakh population) category



Majhi Vasundhara 3.0 state-level award to Divisional Commissioner: Pune under Best Divisional Commissioner category



Majhi Vasundhara 3.0 state-level award to Pimpri Chinchwad Municipal Corporation, Pune under AMRUT Cities (more than 10 lakh population) category

Launch of Majhi Vasundhara 4.0 and Toolkit

After successful completion of Majhi Vasundhara Abhiyan 3.0 with participation of 16,824 local bodies (urban local bodies: 411 and rural local bodies: 16,413) from the state, the DoECC launched Majhi Vasundhara Abhiyan 4.0 on account of World Environment Day, 2023. The Abhiyan aims to take strong climate action across the state through local bodies of the state and community participation. A total of 22,206 local bodies (ULBs: 415 and PRIs: 21,791) have registered for Majhi Vasundhara 4.0.



Along with this, MV4.0 toolkit was launched to promote maximum participation of local bodies. The MV4.0 toolkit has further intensified the actions mentioned in the thematic areas of Bhumi, Vayu, Jal, Agni, and Akash to conserve and protect the environment.

MoU signing

Understanding the significance of the World Environment Day, the Government of Maharashtra signed MoU with Regional Centre for Urban and Environmental Studies of All India Institute of Local Self-Governance, Mumbai, Centre for Water and Sanitation (CWAS) under the CEPT Research and Foundation (CRDF) of the Centre for Environment Planning and Technology (CEPT) and 2000-Watt Smart Cities Association to protect and conserve environment.

The MoUs were signed in the presence of Shri. Radhakrishna Vikhe Patil, Revenue Minister, Government of Maharashtra, Shri. Vijay Nahata, Chairman, SEIAA, Shri. A. L. Jarad, Chairman, MPCB, Shri. Pravin Darade, Principal Secretary, Environment and Climate Change Department, Mr. Martin Maier, Consulate General of Switzerland

The details of these MoUs are as follows:

MoU between RCUES of AILSG, Mumbai and DoECC, GoM

On the occasion of World Environment Day, 2023, an MoU was signed between the Department of Environment and Climate Change, Government of Maharashtra and Regional Centre for Urban and



Environmental Studies of AILSG, Mumbai with support from UNICEF, Maharashtra to support the State Action Plan on Climate Change report by participating in departmental consultations and to provide technical support to Majhi Vasundhara Abhiyan. This facilitates effective implementation of schemes and policies related to WASH and environmental sustainability at local body level through knowledge management and capacity building.

MoU between CWAS, CEPT and DoECC, GoM



An MoU was signed between the Government of Maharashtra and Centre for Water and Sanitation (CWAS) under the CEPT Research and Foundation (CRDF) of the Centre for Environment Planning and Technology (CEPT) to improve water and sanitation service delivery scale and to develop concept, policy guidelines and scalable solutions for climate responsive urban infrastructure for water and sanitation for cities and towns of Maharashtra.

MoU between 2000-Watt Smart Cities Association and DoECC, GoM

The Government of Maharashtra signed an MoU with 2000-Watt Smart Cities Association to develop carbon-neutral framework for cities and towns of Maharashtra. This facilitates development of carbon-neutral urban development policies and regulations and capacity building of stakeholders involved. Along with this, a techno-economically viable and replicable model shall be developed in line with 2000WSC principles of carbon neutrality as a part of the MoU.



Climate Action Brief Release

UNICEF, Maharashtra in association with Centre for Environment Education, Pune with support from RCUES of AILSG, Mumbai has prepared climate action briefs on thematic areas of water, solid waste management, energy, and biocultural diversity. The main aim of these briefs is to create awareness, break down complicated issues on climate change in simple language, and to localize Sustainable Development Goals. The briefs align well with the themes of Majhi Vasundhara Abhiyan viz., Bhumi, Vayu, Jal, Agni, and Akash. All (ULBs and PRIs) 28000+ in the state will get copies of these briefs as a resource material for taking action at local level.

The briefs are bilingual, in English and in Marathi; contain individual, community and government level interventions that can be undertaken by youth, communities, members of local bodies (urban and rural) to reduce their carbon footprint and greenhouse gas emissions. The action briefs are simple and contain easy to understand information and activities on climate change on specific themes of:

1. Water Conservation and Sanitation
2. Solid Waste Management
3. Energy Conservation
4. Biocultural Diversity



The briefs were released in the presence of Shri. Radhakrishna Vikhe Patil, Revenue Minister, Government of Maharashtra, Shri. Vijay Nahata, Chairman, SEIAA, Shri. A. L. Jarad, Chairman, MPCB, Shri. Pravin Darade, Principal Secretary, Environment and Climate Change Department, Government of Maharashtra and Mr. Martin Maier, Consulate General of Switzerland.



MV action briefs are attached here for further reference:

<https://shorturl.at/ruzAQ>

Zero Waste Living: A workshop to embrace Zero Waste Lifestyle

The Coalition has been actively making efforts in the field of sustainability and climate change. While the theme of this year's World Environment Day was solution to plastic pollution, the Secretariat had organized an online workshop on 'Zero Waste Living' in association with Skrap with support from UNICEF, Maharashtra for its partners, CBOs, and urban local bodies of the state. Skrap is an environmental sustainability firm that helps organisations adopt zero waste solutions. This 1-hour workshop consisted of interactive sessions and discussions along with a game focusing on waste management and reduction. The workshop aimed to equip participants with the necessary knowledge and skills to adopt sustainable waste management practices and reduce their carbon and waste footprint.

The workshop received an overwhelming response with more than 100 attendees from ULBs, development partners, youths, and CBOs. While majority of the attendees were from Maharashtra, a few had attended from Brazil as well. The workshop highlighted the significance of waste segregation and alternatives to single use plastic such as eco-friendly and organic products. The attendees were terrified during the workshop after understanding the amount of micro-plastics consumed by a human being in their daily lifestyle. The attendees raised a number of questions on behavioral changes to reduce plastic consumption and waste segregation, ways to conduct zero waste events and ways to reduce micro-plastic consumption while also reducing the use of single use plastic with various other alternatives.

Overall, the attendees were intrigued by the presentation made by the Skrap team and were actively involved in raising questions, participating in the game, and answering the questions as well.



State Action Plan on Climate Change

In 2008, the Prime Minister of India released the national Action Plan for Climate Change (NAPCC) outlining a strategy to enable the country to adapt to climate change and enhance the ecological sustainability of India's development path. Following this, in 2009, the Prime Minister of India declared a process for preparation of State Action Plan on Climate Change (SAPCC) to incorporate climate change considerations into day-to-day governance, adopt climate-friendly policies and programs, regulations, and investment decisions. Thus, SAPCC is the first sub-national exercise for climate change planning in India⁹.



The Government of Maharashtra developed its first SAPCC report in 2014 and is currently in process of revising the SAPCC report with support from Council on Energy, Environment and Water, India. The report will be a framework to take strong climate action across the state and sectors in alignment with the existing national and state-level policies and schemes. The report also maps funds available for climate change adaptation and mitigation under different flagships and the role of youth in climate action. While the initial report gave a glimpse of impacts of climate change at state level, the revised report aims to downscale the impacts at district level to facilitate informed climate action at ground level. The report shall create a pathway to achieve net zero carbon missions in Maharashtra as per India's net zero target year.

Transition towards low-carbon and climate resilient Maharashtra

On 16th May 2023, the Environment and Climate Change Department, Government of Maharashtra signed a Letter of Intent with World Resources Institute India to provide technical support for climate action-focused planning. As a part of this agreement, WRI India will mobilize the transition to low-carbon and climate-resilient development, through concrete plans and projects. Due to this support, 43 AMRUT Cities will be able to achieve net-zero goal in alignment with India's Net Zero target.

Along with this, in order to accelerate climate action across the state, a letter of intent has been signed between the Environment and Climate Change Department, Government of Maharashtra, and a group of philanthropies viz., Children's Investment Fund Foundation (CIFF), Bloomberg Philanthropies (BP), India Climate Collaborative (ICC), and SED Fund. The philanthropies aim to strengthen institutional capacities and implement climate action in the sectors of Power, Transport, Industries, Agriculture, Buildings, and Cities with cross-sectoral focus on finance, energy efficiency, resilience and just transition.

The event took place in Mumbai in the presence of Shri. Pravin Darade, Principal Secretary, Environment and Climate Change Department, Government of Maharashtra, Mr. Madhav pai, CEO, WRI India, Smt. Shruti Narayan, regional Director, South and West Asia, C40, Smt. Shloka Nath, CEO, India Climate Collaborative and Mr. Sudhakar Bobade, Mission Director, Majhi Vasundhara Abhiyan.

Youth-led Platform

The world is home to 1.8 billion young people¹⁰. In the case of Maharashtra, every fourth person in the state is a youth. The impacts of climate change have intensified, and the youth are not only the victims of climate change but are also valuable contributors to climate action. Youth can play an important role in localizing climate action. With this thought in mind, UNICEF Maharashtra and Centre for Environment Education, Pune initiated a youth programme called **Maharashtra Youth for Climate**

⁹ http://cdn.cseindia.org/attachments/0.40897700_1519110602_coping-climate-change-volIII.pdf

¹⁰ <https://www.un.org/en/climatechange/youth-in-action>

Action (MYCA). The platform provides handholding to youths in advocacy and green skilling. The platform is a step to create representation of youth from Maharashtra advocating for climate action. MYCA provides three levels of youth engagement for climate change i.e., training on climate action planning, climate action on the field and its reporting, and climate advocacy and policy.

Detailed information on MYCA can be accessed here: <https://www.mahayouthnet.in/>



Climate Anthem



UNICEF, Maharashtra has developed a climate anthem dedicated to the youth of Maharashtra. The climate song which is composed by a dynamic group of young musicians, Inayat commemorates the climate efforts taken up by Maharashtra's youth at ground level. The music video features stirring images from

UNICEF's photography archive.

The Climate Anthem was released by the Honorable Principal Secretary of the Department of Higher and Technical Education, Government of Maharashtra, Mr. Vikas Rastogi, IAS and Chief of Field Office UNICEF Maharashtra, Miss Rajeshwari Chandrasekar on 9 June 2023. The release took place at Mumbai on the occasion of World Environment Week 2023 and completion of master trainer batch trainings on engaging youth for water conservation. The Anthem, dedicated to the youth of Maharashtra, has

been circulated on all social media channels of UNICEF India handles. The anthem has over 60,000 views and likes on various social media platforms.



Climate Anthem can be found here:

<https://rb.gy/hicmh>

Youth Engagement and Water Stewardship Program Activities



The Youth Engagement and Water Stewardship is a campaign initiated by the Higher and Technical Education Department, Government of Maharashtra. The campaign aims to protect and conserve the natural resources in the state. The campaign is being implemented in 3346 colleges across 13 districts in the state. Under this program, around 300 master trainers were trained through a special and intensive training drive. The training comprises of actions on water conservation, knowledge dissemination through self-paced courses, green skilling, and college level activities in waste management, energy, and biodiversity conservation.

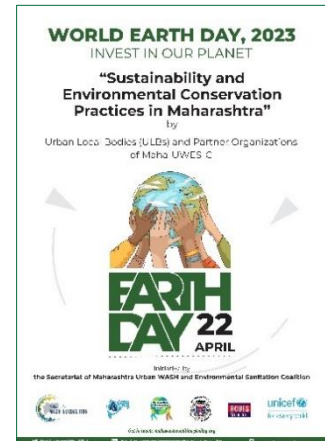


The training resources used by the trainers can be accessed here: <https://shorturl.at/ptART>

Invest in our Planet: World Earth Week Celebrations (22nd April 2023 to 29th April 2023)

Earth day is an annual event celebrated on 22nd April since 1970 to promote environmental awareness and protection. The day is celebrated to raise public awareness of the negative impact of pollution on the environment and human health. Over the years, Earth Day has been instrumental in mobilizing public support for environmental causes, leading to the creation of landmark environmental laws and policies. The event has played a key role in raising awareness about climate change, leading to the signing of the Paris Agreement in 2015, which aims to limit global warming to well below 2 degrees Celsius. Similarly, The Government of India has initiated programs like Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, Namami Gange and has established the National Green Tribunal, and National Air Quality Index to address environmental issues like waste management, water pollution, air pollution, and more.

This report encloses initiatives taken up by the urban local bodies and Coalition partners showcasing their best interventions aligned with the theme of Earth Day 2023: "Invest in Our Planet". A google form was used to collect information in the form of case studies from the urban local bodies and the Development Partners regarding the interventions taken up and the impact created as a result of these interventions. A total of 6 ULBs and 6 Development Partners shared their information and thus participated with the Coalition in the World Earth Day celebration. Their interventions have been carefully compiled and have been disseminated through digital channels to foster engaging discussions and to promote sustainable development interventions. The title of the compilation is 'Sustainability and Environmental Conservation Practices in Maharashtra' and can be accessed here:



<https://shorturl.at/jGSY0>

By amplifying the efforts of the local bodies and the development partners, Maha-UWES-C aims to inspire a broader audience, mobilize action, and foster a culture of environmental stewardship across Maharashtra.

Green Interventions taken up by ULBs and Development Partners

A total of six urban local bodies and six development partners participated in the World Earth Day celebration event conducted by the Secretariat. The activities conducted by participating ULBs and Development Partners range from tree plantation to greywater treatment, installation of fountains, recycling construction and demolition waste and conducting a workshop on climate literacy. The details of these activities have been mentioned in the table given below:

Table 1: Activities conducted by the ULBs and Development partners on occasion of World Earth Day

Sr. No.	Name of the Local Body/ Development Partner	Activity conducted
Urban Local Bodies		
1	Alibaug Municipal Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Installed an organic grey water treatment plant to treat the incoming grey water from open drains before it is discharged into the Arabian Sea, thus conserving the marine ecosystem. The entire treatment process is automated with cloud-based data collection and feedback communication loops for real-time adjustment of treatment solutions.
2	Parola Municipal Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promoting environmental conservation and sustainable living by carrying out activities viz., tree plantation, solid waste management, ban on SUP, air quality inspection and public awareness.

3	Pachora Municipal Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conducted tree plantation in open spaces of the city.
4	Chiplun Municipal Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planted 1680 indigenous trees of 6 feet height along with 800 flowering trees at various locations within the city limits to balance the environment and to beautify the city.
5	Basmat Municipal Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strict implementation of ban on single use plastic by conducting awareness drives and by taking strict action against hawkers and shopkeepers using SUP.
6	Talegaon Dabhade Municipal Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Installed fountains at various locations within the city to limit air pollution and to reduce the impacts of the same while also beautifying the city.
Development Partners		
1	Citizens Association for Child Rights (CACR)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conducted a project to sensitize children and to make them aware on importance of waste segregation at source. Sensitized around 1200 children as a part of this activity and segregated, collected, and prevented 200 kg of waste from going into the landfill.
2	Recity Network Pvt. Ltd	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Launched Hilldari Project in Mahabaleshwar to address the city's waste management challenges. The project aims to revamp the waste collection infrastructure, instill behavior change by conducting programs on four-part segregation, monitor segregation via digital platform and to transform open spaces with wall art and recycled infrastructure.
3	Ecosattva	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conducting river restoration project on Kham River in Aurangabad. The project aims to restore an 8.8 km long river by restoring Nalas while reducing solid waste and water pollution and by restoring ecological balance of the river through community participation. Created an Eco-Park with more than 5000 native plants and 35 documented bird species by engaging communities in clean-up and plantation drives along the bank of the river.
4	Wooloo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developed an application to monitor public toilets across 400 cities (12 cities in Maharashtra) and thus addresses the issues of Women's Health & Safety and open defecation.
5	Cipher Environmental Solutions, LLP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conducted a climate literacy workshop to empower individuals with the knowledge and skills necessary to understand and to address the complex environmental challenges of our planet.



Figure 1: Tree Plantation at Pachora Municipal Council

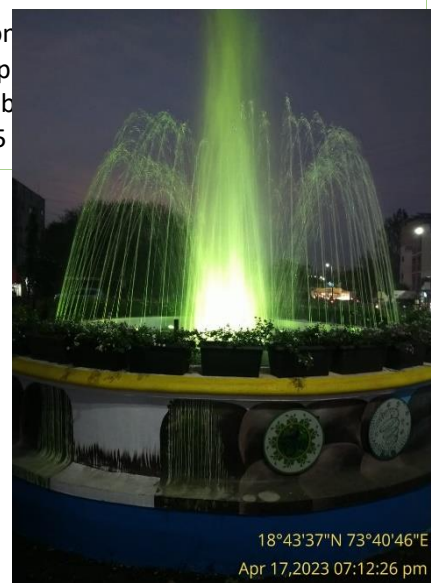


Figure 2: Creation of fountain in Talegaon Dabhade Municipal Council



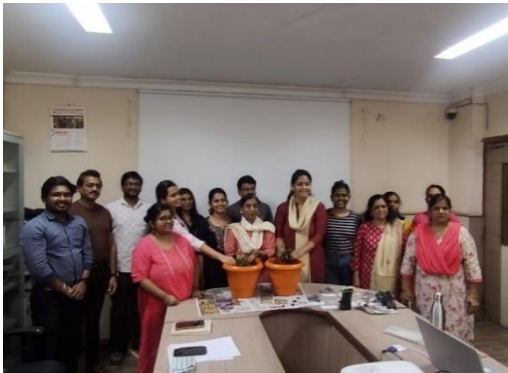
Figure 1: Waste segregation workshop for school children by CACR



Figure 2: Before and after images of undergoing work of Kham River restoration by Ecosattava

The Secretariat investing in our Planet by distributing Seeds and by taking an Oath

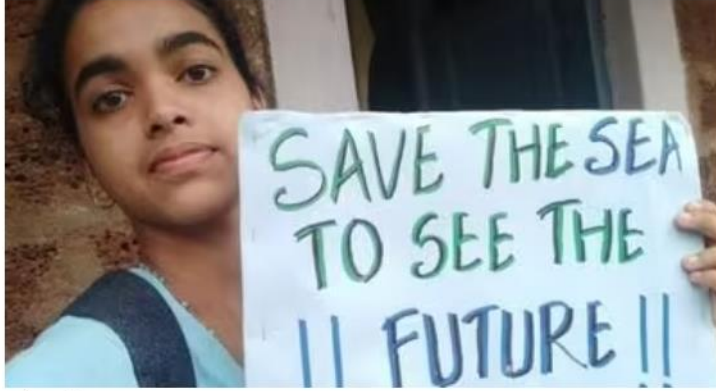
On account of World Earth Day, The Secretariat, Maharashtra Urban WASH and ES Coalition conducted a series of activities to promote environmental awareness and sustainable practices. The office distributed a variety of seeds to symbolize the significance of care and nurture and conducted a workshop on importance of medicinal plants to facilitate the understanding of therapeutic value of several plant species. The team members also took an oath to reduce their carbon footprint recognizing the importance of individual efforts. Thus, the Secretariat has shown its commitment to promote environmental awareness and sustainable lifestyles in order to ensure a sustainable and greener future.



The background of the slide is a solid dark green color, overlaid with a pattern of various tropical leaves in lighter shades of green. The leaves include large monstera leaves with characteristic holes, smaller fern-like leaves, and other broad-leafed plants. The pattern is dense and covers the entire background.

Media Outreach:
Engagement with
Stakeholders and Youth!

Media Outreach: Engagement with Stakeholders and Youth!



पर्यावरण दिन

World Environment Day 2023 Exclusive: जाणून घ्या पर्यावरणासाठी झगडणाऱ्या कोकणची कन्या 'मेगल'ची गोष्ट



Jun 05, 2023 07:30 PM IST

<https://marathi.hindustantimes.com/lifestyle/know-inspirational-story-of-18-year-old-megal-dsouza-on-world-environment-day-2023-141685935436433.html>

18-year-old Megal Dsouza, member of MYCA, has been working on creating awareness on environment conservation for a year by organizing cleanliness drives, workshop on reuse of waste.

Celebration of World Environment Day: IIT-B Abhyuday team conducts clean-up drive

IIT-B Abhyuday team clears 3 tonnes of garbage from Powai lake

FPJ News Service | Updated: Sunday, June 04, 2023, 08:51 PM IST



<https://www.freepressjournal.in/mumbai/celebration-of-world-environment-day-iit-b-abhyuday-team-conducts-clean-up-drive>

Megha Phadkay, youth member of MYCA and participant of Maharashtra Youth Conference 2023 has captured the potential of youth in driving equitable climate policies.

Harnessing youth potential to steer conversations on climate crisis

Megha Phadkay

The 27th Conference of Parties (CoP27) and the Davos summit of the World Economic Forum, reiterated the importance of negotiations and dialogue in Climate Action. Youth delegations and young voices speaking up against the status quo have increased in the recent past. Why are questions raised on participation of the youth climate change struggle then?

Why are students like me voluntarily working for this? Why are we willing to spend our days talking to people about the biggest problems the world is facing today?



MY SPACE

The answer is simple. 'Climate Justice' is a right, not a privilege. And fighting for your rights is never a choice, but a need. The youths today are spearheading the fight against climate change, demanding policy changes and catalysing transformative action at all levels, because we need to ensure that we live past 50. But how to navigate this seemingly-complex and new space of climate discourse?



Pic for representational purpose

Climate negotiations can be overwhelming — the spaces can feel elitist and hierarchical. But the only way forward is to start. Slowly, but surely, you get used to talking about things that make people uncomfortable. To be very honest: what I remember the most after working in this field is not the overwhelming data, nor the anxiety-inducing graphs, but the sheer variety in the backgrounds of the people who are participating- I have met architects, social workers, teachers, painters, lawyers, engineers, musicians, designers working together to make a change. I have met 10-year-old and 80-year-old people

too. The climate movement has space for everyone. The movement might have been shaped and founded primarily by scientists; geologists, climate researchers and mathematicians, but now is the time for collaborative effort.

The best way to start is to just talk about it – anywhere and everywhere. Over a period of time, you get used to modifying the narrative to suit your audience. Telling them the stuff that will resonate with them. It is crucial to begin these discussions with mutual respect. The silence that follows eventually grows on you and you get comfortable with the questions. You get used to talking assertively and dominating the conversations too. It is then about making people understand that; “This isn’t about saving the planet. The earth will take care of itself. Its about saving the rest of us.”

The path young climate activists tread is not without obstacles. Cynicism, resistance, inertia, and eco-anxiety are the biggest party-poopers. Often dismissed as idealistic or lacking experience, youngsters face resistance and scepticism from entrenched power structures. It is extremely hard to be taken seriously.

And yet, it is important to fight this fight because the conversations we have today are going to be the policies of tomorrow.

Environment Day celebration by youth activities along with media coverage in Kudal district of Maharashtra



Representation of activities conducted by youth of Buldhana District to conserve environment.

NYK Buldana
@NBuldana

#WorldEnvironmentDay2023
Tree plantation in Nehru Yuva mandal and Yuvati mandal college of Sawale Art and commerce college Lakhawada tere plantation Youth.
@NagpurNyk @NYKS_maha_Goa @NYKAurangabadMH @YASMinistry @Nyksindia @InfoBuldhana



12:36 PM · Jun 5, 2023 · 662 Views

<https://twitter.com/NBuldana/status/1665616155233452032?s=08>

NYK Buldana
@NBuldana

#WorldEnvironmentDay2023
Clean drive on college Campuses sawale Art and commerce college Lakhawada.
@NagpurNyk @YASMinistry @NYKS_maha_Goa @Nyksindia @YouthJalgaon



12:32 PM · Jun 5, 2023 · 77 Views

<https://twitter.com/NBuldana/status/1665615101439754240?s=08>



दिली सस्ती बुलडाणा 05-06-2023

कार्यक्रम : लाक्षणवाडा येथे मिशन लाईफ पर्यावरण संवर्धन जनजागृती

खासगीतः भारत सरकारच्या युवा कार्यक्रम व खेल क्रीडा मंत्रालय अंतर्गत कार्य करणारी नेहरू युवा केंद्र संस्थान बुलडाणा यांचे वतीने लाक्षणवाडा जवळच्या २ जुन येथील मिशन लाईफ अंतर्गत पर्यावरण संवर्धनाची शोध युवाक युवांनी यांना दिली. पर्यावरण संवर्धनासाठी युवाकांनी पुढाकार घेतला पाहिजे असा उद्देश पर्यावरण, यादार्त चाणदेव लक्ष्मण, अन्वकारी पंडित, युवा वीर अशा विविध कार्यकर्त्यांनी पर्यावरणाचा नारा दिला. आगला पर्यावरणाचा समशील लाक्षणवाडातील आगला युवाक-युवांनी यांनी पुढाकार घेतला. स्वच्छ भारत मिशन असेल, जल संभारण करणे, वृक्ष लावणे करणे या माध्यमांद्वारे आगला पर्यावरण संवर्धन करू शकतो, असे माहितीपूर्ण वृक्ष आगळीन समित्या यावेळी यांनी केले. कार्यक्रम आयोजन साखळे कला वाणिज्य माहितीमालय लाक्षणवाडा येथे करण्यात आले होते. या प्रसंगी प्रा. सुरकाळ, प्रा.वीरये, प्रा.रवींद्र चांद, प्रा. हिमराजे इत्यादी उपस्थित होते.



बीजगोळे (Seed Bomb)

• काय आहेत बीज गोळे (सीड बॉम्ब) ?

हे बीजगोळे म्हणजे पेपर चे बॉल असून यामध्ये विविध झाडांच्या बिया भरल्या जातात. जलदगतीने पर्यावरण संवर्धन करण्यासाठी याचा वापर होतो. हे बीजगोळे जुन्या रद्दी पेपरवर प्रक्रिया करून सांगली, पुणे येथील विद्यार्थ्यांनी बनविलेले आहेत. त्यावर पुनः प्रक्रिया करून यामध्ये आपणांस दिलेल्या भेटवस्तू मध्ये बीजप्रक्रिया केलेले बीज, कोकोपीट याचा समावेश आहे. या बीजगोळ्यांची रुजण्याची क्षमता अधिक असून हा पर्यावरण पूरक साहित्यापासून बनविलेला आहे. या बीजगोळ्यामध्ये 'हादगा' या उच्च पोषणमूल्य असलेल्या झाडाचे बी टाकलेले असून त्यासोबत कोकोपीट आणि कंपोस्ट देखील दिलेले आहे.

• याचा वापर कसा करावा ?

तुम्हाला दिलेल्या भेटवस्तू मधील सीड बॉल आणि कोकोपीट काढून ते तुम्ही घराशेजारील जागेत, शेतात किंवा परिसरात कुठेही हे फेकून देऊ शकतात. आता पावसाळा सुरू होईल, पावसात हे बीज रुजणार आहे आणि त्यातून सुष्टीत या रोपट्यारूपी झाडाची नवनिर्मिती होणार आहे. हे बहरेल, पक्षी, फुलपाखरे, कीडे- कीटक इत्यादींसाठी पोषणसंस्था बनेल आणि यातून खऱ्या अर्थाने पर्यावरण संवर्धन होईल.

जागतिक पर्यावरण दिनाच्या औचित्याने 'पर्यावरण संवर्धन संकल्पात' सहभागी होऊयात, निसर्ग सजवूयात !



यांच्या संयुक्त विद्यमाने नवोपक्रम



Radio and FM interviews:



UNICEF, Maharashtra, and MYCA teams gave radio (approx. two million reach) interviews on World Environment Day. The Recordings can be accessed here; <https://shorturl.at/eipHU>

The Secretariat promoted the activities on its social media handles, celebrating Earth Day and making others aware of the initiative it took on this important day.



The background of the page is a solid green color with a pattern of various tropical leaves, including monstera and ferns, scattered across the surface. The leaves are rendered in different shades of green, creating a layered, organic feel.

Conclusion

Conclusion

Key takeaways

Majhi Vasundhara Abhiyan is a holistic initiative of the Environment and Climate Change Department, Government of Maharashtra which focuses on climate change mitigation and adaptation with a focus on waste management on WASH infrastructure. The Abhiyan, which was initiated in October 2020, has completed 3 years, and has resulted in carbon sequestration of 5.34 lakh tCO₂ and avoidance of 13.78 lakh tCO₂ emissions as a result of the work taken up by the local bodies of the state. On the occasion of World Environment Day, 2023, the participating local bodies of Majhi Vasundhara 3.0 were felicitated for their work. During the same event, Majhi Vasundhara 4.0 was launched and a total of 22,206 local bodies (ULBs; 415 and PRIs: 21,791) have registered.

Understanding the significance of the day, DoECC has signed MoUs with Regional Centre for Urban and Environmental Studies of All India Institute of Local Self-Governance, Mumbai, Centre for Water and Sanitation (CWAS) under the CEPT Research and Foundation (CRDF) of the Centre for Environment Planning and Technology (CEPT) and 2000-Watt Smart Cities Association to protect and conserve environment. In order to support climate action-focused planning, DoECC has signed a letter of intent with World Resources Institute India to mobilize the transition to low-carbon and climate-resilient development. As institutional capacities play a key role in implementing climate action, the department has signed a letter of intent with a group of philanthropies. Apart from this, the department is actively involved in revising the State Action Plan on Climate Change to take strong climate action across the state and sectors in alignment with the existing national and state-level policies and schemes.

The Secretariat also celebrated the day by organizing a workshop on zero waste living which helped the urban local bodies and partner organizations understand the importance of waste segregation and the impacts of plastic pollution on the planet. The workshop highlighted the significance of using organic and eco-friendly products to conduct zero waste events and thus, to help attain a zero-waste lifestyle. The Climate Anthem released, and the Climate Action Briefs published on the WEnD, 2023 signify the efforts taken up to create awareness regarding the impacts of climate change and the role of youth, individuals, and youth-groups to work across various sectors to tackle the same.

On the occasion of WED, the Secretariat made a compilation of the best conservation practices taken by the urban local bodies and the development partners. The efforts taken up suggest that even a small step can help make the environment better. These efforts help us understand the significance of tackling one issue at a time in a stepwise manner in order to address all the environment-related concerns. On the other hand, the Secretariat conducted a series of events to create awareness and highlighted the significance of individual efforts by taking an oath to Understanding the significance of individual efforts, the Secretariat also conducted an event where every attendee took an oath to lead a greener lifestyle.

Way Forward for Maha-UWES-C and DoECC, GoM Partnership

Building upon the key takeaways from the celebration of World Earth Day and World Environment Day, it is abundantly clear that the Maharashtra Urban WASH and ES Coalition is committed to taking forward the agenda of environment conservation and to take a strong climate action in collaboration with its development partners, ULBs, and other key stakeholders. The Secretariat will strengthen the WASH and Sanitation sector by integrating climate elements with support from the state department. By acknowledging the efforts taken up by youth and their understanding of the impacts of climate change, the Secretariat aims to advocate the youth and the youth groups of the state in environmental conservation activities. In the coming days, local bodies will also be encouraged to reach out to young people in their locality to participate and/or to conduct campaigns and community awareness events.

The Coalition recognizes the importance of impacts of climate change and promotes environmental sustainability through its projects. The following are the proposed strategies to integrate strong climate action agenda 1) Strengthen Partnerships 2) Engage ULBs 3) Capacity Building 4) Project Implementation 5) Advocacy and Policy Influence 6) Monitoring and Evaluation 7) Public Participation. By implementing these strategies, the Maharashtra Urban WASH and ES Coalition with support of UNICEF Maharashtra aims to drive positive change, conserve the environment, advocate strong climate action, and promote environmental sustainability. Through collaborative efforts with partners, ULBs, and other stakeholders, the coalition strives to create a greener, cleaner, and more sustainable future for Maharashtra and its communities.

The background of the page is a solid dark green color, overlaid with a pattern of various tropical leaves in lighter shades of green. The leaves include large monstera leaves with characteristic holes, smaller fern-like leaves, and other broad-leafed plants. The pattern is dense and covers the entire page.

Annexure

Annexure

The list of award-winning local bodies and officers during Majhi Vasundhara 3.0 is as follows:

1. State Level Awards

Rank	Local Body Name	Division
AMRUT Cities: 10 lakhs+		
1	Pimpri Chinchwad Municipal Corporation	Pune
2	Navi Mumbai Municipal Corporation	Konkan
3	Pune Municipal Corporation	Pune
AMRUT Cities: 3-10 lakhs		
1	Mira Bhayander Municipal Corporation	Konkan
2	Ahemadnagar Municipal Corporation	Nashik
3	Panvel Municipal Corporation	Konkan
AMRUT Cities: 1-3 lakhs		
1	Satara Municipal Corporation	Pune
2	Barshi Municipal Corporation	Pune
3	Bhusawal Municipal Corporation	Nashik
Municipal Councils & Nagar Panchayat: 50k-1 lakh		
1	Karad Municipal Council	Pune
2	Lonavala Municipal Council	Pune
3	Baramati Municipal Council	Pune
Municipal Councils & Nagar Panchayat: 25k-50k		
1	Gadhinglaj Municipal Council	Pune
2	Mohol Municipal Council	Pune
3	Shirdi Municipal Council	Nashik
Municipal Councils & Nagar Panchayat: 15k-25k		
1	Dahiwadi Nagar Panchayat	Pune
2	Malegaon Bk Nagar Panchayat	Pune
3	Niphad Nagar Panchayat	Nashik
Municipal Councils & Nagar Panchayat: Less than 15k		
1	Pachgani Municipal Council	Pune
2	Panhala Municipal Council	Pune
3	Mahabaleshwar Municipal Council	Pune
Gram Panchayat: 10k+		
1	Mandrup Grampanchyat	Pune (Solapur)
2	Gunjalwadi Grampanchyat	Nashik (Ahemadnagar)
3	Vinchur Grampanchyat	Nashik (Nashik)
Gram Panchayat: 5k-10k		
1	Boradi Grampanchyat	Nashik (Dhule)
2	Dharangutti Grampanchyat	Pune (Kolhapur)
3	Shinde Grampanchyat	Nashik (Nashik)

Gram Panchayat: 2.5k-5k		
1	Wagholi Grampanchyat	Nashik (Ahemadnagar)
2	Javalgaon Grampanchyat	Aurangabad (Nanded)
3	Ghatnandare Grampanchyat	Pune (Sangli)
Gram Panchayat: Less than 2.5k		
1	Shirsate Grampanchyat	Nashik (Nashik)
2	Sindkhed Grampanchyat	Amravati (Buldhana)
3	Manyachiwadi Grampanchyat	Pune (Satara)
Highest performing local body in Bhumi thematic area		
Vertical	Local Body Name	Division (District)
Amrut 10L+	Pimpri Chinchwad Municipal Corporation	Pune
Amrut 3-10L	Mira Bhayander Municipal Corporation	Konkan
Amrut 1-3L	Satara Municipal Council	Pune
MC & NP 50k-1L	Lonavala Municipal Council	Pune
MC & NP 25k-50k	Gadhinglaj Municipal Council	Pune
MC & NP 15k-25k	Dahiwadi Nagar Panchayat	Pune
MC & NP >15k	Pachgani Municipal Council	Pune
GP 10k+	Sonai Grampanchyat	Nashik (Ahemadnagar)
GP 5k-10k	Boradi Grampanchyat	Nashik (Dhule)
GP 2.5k-5k	Wagholi Grampanchyat	Nashik (Ahemadnagar)
GP >2.5K	Shirsate Grampanchyat	Nashik (Nashik)
Best Performing Officers: Division and District Level		
Best Performing Division		
Sr. No.	Name of Division	
1	Pune Division	
2	Nashik Division	
3	Nagpur Division	
Best Performing District		
Sr. No.	Name of District	Division
1	Pune District	Pune
2	Satara District	Pune
3	Kolhapur	Pune
Best Performing Zilla Parishad		
Sr. No.	Name	Division
1	Sangli District	Pune
2	Ahmednagar District	Nashik
3	Nashik District	Nashik

2. Division Level Awards

Sr. No.	Name of the Local Body	Division
Best Performing AMRUT Cities		
1	Thane Municipal Corporation	Konkan
2	Amravati Municipal Corporation	Amravati
3	Dhule Municipal Corporation	Nashik
4	Sangli Miraj Kupwad Municipal Corporation	Pune
5	Wardha Municipal Corporation	Nagpur
6	Aurangabad Municipal Corporation	Aurangabad
Best Performing MC and NP: 50k-1 lakh		
1	Hingoli Municipal Council	Aurangabad
2	Umred Municipal Council	Nagpur
3	Talegaon Dabhade Municipal Council	Pune
4	Chalisgaon Municipal Council	Nashik
5	Buldhana Municipal Council	Amravati
6	Ratnagiri Municipal Council	Konkan
Best Performing MC and NP: 25k-50k		
1	Jaysingpur Municipal Council	Pune
2	Rahuri Municipal Council	Nashik
3	Warud Municipal Council	Amravati
4	Vaijapur Municipal Council	Aurangabad
5	Desaiganj Municipal Council	Nagpur
6	Mahad Municipal Council	Konkan
Best Performing MC and NP: 15k-25k		
1	Kurundwad Municipal Council	Pune
2	Akole Municipal Council	Nashik
3	Pauni Municipal Council	Nagpur
4	Sonpeth Municipal Council	Aurangabad
5	Sawantwadi Municipal Council	Konkan
6	Kalamb (Y) Nagar Panchyat	Amravati
Best Performing MC and NP: Less than 15k		
1	Malkapur (K) Municipal Council	Pune
2	Trimbak Municipal Council	Nashik
3	Vengurla Municipal Council	Konkan
4	Khapa Municipal Council	Nagpur
5	Kundalwadi Municipal Council	Aurangabad
6	Nandgaon Khandeshwar Municipal Council	Amravati
Best Performing GP: 10k+		

1	Astgaon Grampanchyat	Nashik (Ahemadnagar)
2	Jarud Grampanchyat	Amravati (Amravati)
3	Yelavi Grampanchyat	Pune (Sangli)
4	Kurunda Grampanchyat	Aurangabad (Hingoli)
5	Pasthal Grampanchyat	Konkan (Palghar)
6	Dawalmeti Grampanchyat	Nagpur (Nagpur)
Best Performing GP: 5k-10k		
1	Tung Grampanchyat	Pune (Sangli)
2	Kerhale Bk Grampanchyat	Nashik (Jalgaon)
3	Vadgaon Grampanchyat	Konkan (Raigad)
4	Jamb Grampanchyat	Amravati (Washim)
5	Shirdhon Grampanchyat	Aurangabad (Osmanabad)
6	Karanja Grampanchyat	Nagpur (Gondia)
Best Performing GP: 2.5k-5k		
1	Patoda Grampanchyat	Aurangabad (Aurangabad)
2	Pemgiri Grampanchyat	Nashik (Ahemadnagar)
3	Vatnagi Grampanchyat	Pune (Kolhapur)
4	Khanivde Grampanchyat	Konkan (Palghar)
5	Wadegaon Grampanchyat	Nagpur (Gondia)
6	Malkhed Bk Grampanchyat	Amravati (Yavatmal)
Best Performing GP: Less than 2.5k		
1	Tigaon Grampanchyat	Nashik (Ahemadnagar)
2	Anandwan Grampanchyat	Nagpur (Chandrapur)
3	Adakhil Grampanchyat	Konkan (Ratnagiri)
4	Jadhavwadi Grampanchyat	Pune (Solapur)
5	Pardi Grampanchyat	Amravati (Amravati)
6	Bopala Grampanchyat	Aurangabad (Latur)
Best Performing Officers: Division and District Level		
Best Performing District in Division		
Sr. No.	Name of the District	Division
1	Amravati District	Amravati
2	Nanded District	Aurangabad
3	Sindhudurg & Raigad District (Joint)	Konkan
4	Nagpur District	Nagpur
5	Jalgaon District	Nashik
6	Solapur District	Pune

Best Performing Zilla Parishad in Division		
Sr. No.	Name	Division
1	Amravati District	Amravati
2	Aurangabad District	Aurangabad
3	Ratnagiri District	Konkan
4	Gondia District	Nagpur
5	Jalgaon District	Nashik
6	Satara & Kolhapur District (Joint)	Pune



#BeatPlasticPollution