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Pupils during a practical science lesson at Sarvodaya Ashram, Hardoi, Uttar Pradesh.  
Photo: Sam Strickland

## Key Dates

1

18 May: New Kusuma Trust  
UK website launched -  
[www.kusumatrust.org](http://www.kusumatrust.org)

2

1 June: Kusuma Foundation  
opens its new office in Delhi

3

1 July: Kusuma Trust UK Board  
Meeting

4

25 July: Kusuma Trust UK  
AGM

## Scholarship students pass Indian Institute of Technology exam

Two recipients of the Kusuma Young Achievers' Award successfully passed the Indian Institute of Technology Joint Entrance Examination (JEE), enabling them to study for an undergraduate engineering degree. Both students live in rural districts in the State of Andhra Pradesh and overcame difficult circumstances to achieve these outstanding academic results.

Nanuvath Nagamani, from Raghunathpally Mandal, was accepted into the Award's first cohort in 2008 and proved to be a focused and high performing student. She received 83% for her Class 12 Standard Examination and, despite failing her first attempt at the JEE, was supported and guided to continue her studies. Nagamani persevered and passed in her second attempt.



Jerupula Mohan, from the remote village of Beecharajapalli, Maripeda Mandal, located more than 250 kilometres from Hyderabad, was accepted into the scholarship programme in 2009. The stipend enabled him to stop working to support his family and concentrate on his education. He credits the counselling and mentoring meetings for his success and says that he aspires "to be a civil servant with a good education from the best institutions of the country".

our mission

To facilitate and increase access to education and other life opportunities for children and young people

## EDUCATION

### **Kusuma Ratna Fellowship Programme**



Ratna Fellows in Sambalpur  
Photo: Sam Strickland

The annual examination results saw 54% of the students from Cohort One scoring 60% and above, automatically qualifying them for continued support from the Fellowship. Six mentors led career counseling support meetings for 87 students. In May, all 22 students who took the Joint Entrance Examination qualified. Results for the students who took the All India Engineering Entrance Examination will be released in mid-June.

### **Kusuma Udayan Shalini Fellowship**

On 22 May, 220 Shalini students participated in a social awareness campaign on the issue of female foeticide, organised with the support of the All India Women's Conference. To improve communication skills, 16 students took part in a month long English language course in Dehradun. On 29 May, the final year graduates formed the first Shalini alumni group, where 33 senior students were inducted as mentors and assigned to their own group of mentees.

### **Kusuma Young Achievers' Award**

The Class 12 Standard Examination results indicated that 42% of Cohort Two's students achieved a grade of 70% and above. On 22 May, 264 students attended an educational workshop on personal development and effective communication skills. Also on that date, 28 students presented their own projects to their peers and visiting faculty members from the National Institute of Technology, Warangal.

### **Bridge School Programmes: Udaan & Pehchan**

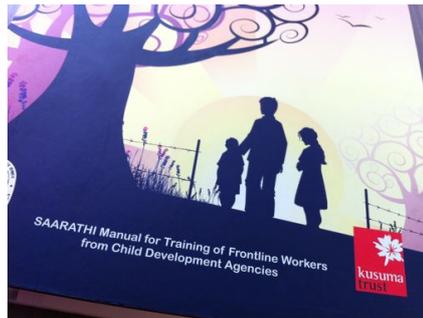
From 5-12 May, Udaan's Cohort Three students took their Class 5 standard public examination to enroll into Class 6 and Pehchan's Cohort One students took their Class 8 standard public

examination to enroll into Class 9. On 20 May, a community seminar for 74 children and 70 parents took place to discuss mainstreaming the bridge school students into local government schools. From 22-26 May, 102 Pehchan students participated in a study visit to Agra and Delhi. Books and equipment for the new library and science laboratory will be purchased in June.

## CHILDREN AT-RISK

### **Project Saarathi**

In May, the Kusuma Foundation worked closely with the project's partners - Sadhana, the Tata Institute of Social Sciences, the Juvenile Justice Department (JJD) of Andhra Pradesh and UNICEF - to finalise the key components and timeline of the new grant proposal, which aims to roll out training for 1,100 frontline government social welfare workers. Sadhana, in partnership with the JJD, started to shortlist candidates for the head trainer positions for the Saarathi training programme.



Saarathi Manual  
Photo: Julian Beckedahl

### **Kusuma Mid-Day Meal Kitchen**

The first disbursement for a major 3-year kitchen construction and feeding programme was made in May. This grant will enable The Akshaya Patra Foundation to build a new kitchen in Bhubaneswar, Orissa. By 2012-2014, the kitchen will feed up to 100,000 government school children daily.

### **Mobile Science Laboratory (MSL)**

Work is underway to revise plans for the renewal of the MSL project, placing an emphasis on sustainable teaching models that can be incorporated into the government school curriculum. On 19 May, MSL teachers were invited by the District Institute of Education and Training to conduct sessions for non-MSL government school science teachers to demonstrate MSL best practice.



Mobile Science Laboratory students at Monda Market High School, Hyderabad.  
Photo: Balwant Singh

## INTERNET & OPEN SPACE

### **Building Open Sharing Resources**

iCommons' held discussions with Bodleian Library staff at Oxford University's Research Archive on archiving regulations. The partner also met with researchers at the Open University's Centre for Health, Law and Emerging Technologies to explore privacy legislation issues.

### **Accessibility and Access to Knowledge**

On 10 May, the Centre for Internet and Society advocated that universal service funds should be used for disabled people's telecommunications. More information is available on their website: <http://www.cis-india.org/advocacy/accessibility/blog/universal-service>

## RESEARCH & ADVOCACY

### **iPartner India**

On 17 May, the businessman and philanthropist, Sethu Vaidyanathan, hosted a High Tea Event at the Park Hotel in Delhi on 'sparking social change', to promote iPartner's donor links and charitable initiatives.

### **Other News**

The Trust extends a warm welcome to the new staff at our affiliate in India, Kusuma Foundation: Reshma Dixit and Avik Swarnakar (Programme Managers), Harichandan Mishra (Programme Officer), Shantanam Sinha (Finance Manager) and Tina Soni (Office Manager). <http://www.kusumafoundation.co.in/>

## GRANTS NEWS

**In May, the Trust disbursed £635,784 for education projects**