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November 2011



Meals being cooked for the Mid-Day Meal Project in Andhra Pradesh
Photo: Sam Strickland

Key Dates

1

30 November: Kusuma
Thematic Meeting on
Education in Delhi

2

1 December: Kusuma-LSE
Seminar in Delhi

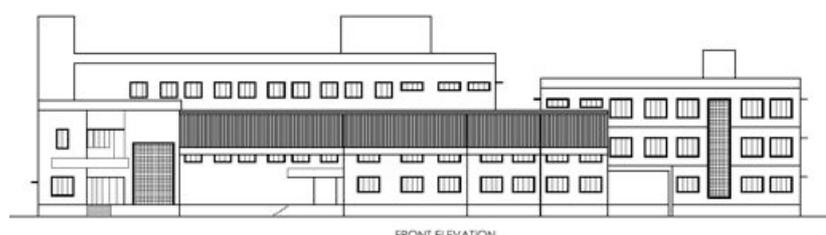
3

2 December: Kusuma
School of Biological
Sciences Advisory Board
Meeting

Mid-Day Meal Kitchen construction to commence

In November, the foundations of a new Mid-Day Meal Kitchen in Bhubaneswar, Orissa will be laid. After evaluating a series of tenders, The Akshaya Patra Foundation is to award the construction contract in mid-November and the building works are due to start at the end of the month.

The kitchen will take six months to build and is to be operational from May 2012. The Trust has made a £1.4 million grant for this project, which will deliver meals to 100,000 children attending government schools in Bhubaneswar and Cuttack.



FRONT ELEVATION

our mission

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



A Young Achiever Student at College in Warangal, Andhra Pradesh
Photo: Sam Strickland

Kusuma Student makes top 12%

Nallatheegala Ganesh comes from a poor farming family, where his parents earn less than £400 per year. Despite missing part of his primary education because of the need to work to support his family, he managed to enroll, free of charge, at the Zilla Praja Parishad Secondary School at Theegarajupally, Sangem, Andhra Pradesh.

In 2008, he scored 81% in his Class 10 examination, and was accepted into the first cohort of the **Kusuma Young Achievers' Award**. With support from the programme, he completed a two-year pre university course in 2010. Nallatheegala then enrolled in a Bachelor of Technology (Electronics and Communication Engineering) course at the International Institute of Information Technology in Basar, Andhra Pradesh.

At the end of his first year, he was ranked in the top 12% of his course. He praised the scholarship:

“Without support from the programme, my ambition to study engineering would have remained a distant dream and I would have ended up working on farms with my family. I want to become a civil servant and bring corruption to an end in my country. I also want to help other students fulfill their dreams.”

Nallatheegala is one of 161 students from the scholarship's 2008 cohort who have enrolled into higher education courses.

New Scholars Sworn In

On 24-25 October, 100 new recipients of the **Kusuma Ratna Fellowship** were formally inducted into the programme in the presence of their parents and guardians, at the offices of the Sambalpur Integrated Development Institute. 85 will be supported in Class 12 and 15 for higher education courses.

Hyderabad Hosts Exhibition

On 15-16 October, teachers promoted the **Mobile Science Laboratory (MSL)** project at the Andhra Pradesh Real Estate Developers' Association Exhibition in Hyderabad. They networked with representatives from NGOs involved in education, health and socio-economic development.

The teachers emphasised the need for the MSL project in government schools, highlighting its positive impact on students' academic performance in science subjects.



An MSL teacher with students at a Government High School for Girls in Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh
Photo: Sam Strickland

Mid-Day Meals Halted

Political unrest temporarily interrupted the delivery of the **Kusuma Mid-Day Meal Project** in the Medak District of Andhra Pradesh. On 15 October, the schools were reopened, allowing for the resumption of the programme.

To make up for the missed school days and to prevent students from falling behind in the curriculum, the Education Department has reduced the number of pending holidays for the current academic year.

Prime Minister Donates to iPartner India Project

At the wedding of Tej and Tara Lalwani, the owners of Vitabiotics and the Indali restaurant, guests donated £14,000 through **iPartner India** (which is funded by The Trust) to support a Bangalore orphanage project.

Guests who made donations included David and Samantha Cameron, and Tony Blair.

In October, iPartner raised £47,500 for anti-child trafficking projects in partnership with the Nilaya Trust. An additional commitment of £50,000 was also secured through support from the Rangoonwala Foundation, which improves socio-economic development for marginalised communities.

UK Government Lobbied

iCommons, in partnership with Creative Commons, submitted a joint response to the UK Cabinet Office consultation on “Making Open Data Real”. iCommons urged the Government to expand the definition of open data, adopt standardised public licenses and handle data protection issues separately.

Partnerships Forged

On 18 October, Kusuma Foundation facilitated a proposal development workshop with four potential partners in Bhubaneswar, Orissa. The objective was to develop grant proposals for new projects in Sambalpur District.



Proposal Development Workshop held in Bhubaneswar on 18 October
Photo: Avik Swarnakar

Other News

The Trust and Kusuma Foundation extend a warm welcome to Rashmi Panigrahi, the Foundation's new Programme Officer, who starts on 8 November.