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A student during conducting a science experiment at the new Moosarambad Government High School, Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh - Photo: Project 511

Key Dates

1

4 Feb: Kusuma Young Achiever Students attend the British Council's 'Education-UK' Exhibition in Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh

2

8 Feb: KF Board Meeting in Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh

3

18 Feb: Government schools' science exhibition in Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh

Science Project promoted at State Exhibition

The Trust's Mobile Science Laboratory (MSL) project is being promoted at the State Government of Andhra Pradesh's 72nd All India Industrial Exhibition in Hyderabad. This is the first time that the project has been included in such an established and prestigious event.

The 46-day long exhibition houses 2,500 stalls and is expected to attract up to 2.5 million visitors, including traders, consumers and the general public.

The government's Rajiv Vidya Mission has set up a stall to promote its education initiatives, including the MSL project. The State Minister of Education, Mr Shailajanath, inaugurated the stall and interacted with MSL teachers. Each day, these teachers demonstrate experiments for up to 100 students from public, private and government schools. By 15 February, when the exhibition concludes, more than 4,000 students will have been exposed to innovative, interactive and engaging methods of teaching science.

our mission

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

Schools' Science Event

On 18 February, 80 teachers and 270 students from 80 government schools are to participate in a one-day District Science Exhibition at the Mehboob Vihar Girls School, in Hyderabad. The District Education Officer and representatives from the Rajiv Vidya Mission will also attend.

This annual event enables students from schools participating in the Trust-funded MSL project to showcase their knowledge of science subjects. Three students from each school will demonstrate experiments, and a panel of judges will assess the demonstrations and award prizes to the best ones.

At the event, the new MSL manual, containing 128 experiments in physics, chemistry and biology, will be launched.

On 20 February, a performance recognition event will be held for high achieving science students from 60 MSL schools. Five prizes will be awarded to the students scoring the highest marks.

Talent Competition on Television

From 15 to 22 January, 353 **Kusuma Udayan Shalini** students participated in a talent competition entitled the 'Genius of Uttarakhand 2012' at the Junior Scholar Home School in Dehradun. A panel of educationalists and mentors, including Dr. G.S. Rawat, founder of the Indian Administrative Service academy and Mr. Vimal Dabral, Public Relations Officer of Uttarakhand's Electricity and Water Board, shortlisted 15 students.

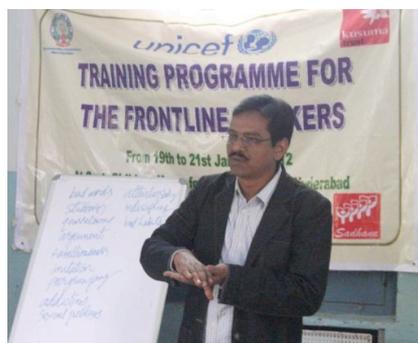


Keniya Kaur, an Udayan Shalini Fellow in Delhi
Photo: Tania Karunaratne

Later this month, two winners will be selected and the event will be telecast on Doordarshan, India's Public Service Broadcaster. This broadcast will enable the students to showcase their talent and enhance the profile of Udayan Care and the **Kusuma Udayan Shalini Fellowship**.

Training in Andhra Pradesh

From 19-21 January, 26 Juvenile Welfare Department officials and three NGO workers participated in **Saarathi** training in Hyderabad – inaugurated by Dr. Sukumaran, Joint Director of Andhra Pradesh's Juvenile Welfare Department.



Mr. Visesh, Independent Consultant, during Saarathi training in Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh
Photo: Sadhana

The training is designed to develop workers who support children at-risk – helping them facilitate the children's rehabilitation and reintegration back into society.

The training sessions focused on understanding the children's vulnerabilities, with an emphasis on communication and counseling. It also covered important information on the Juvenile Justice Act, Juvenile Justice Board and Child Welfare Committees.

From 4 to 5 February, 20 workers from children's homes took part in training on child protection issues in Warangal.

Another 100 are due to be trained in three other Andhra Pradesh cities this month, namely Eluru (14-16 February), Vijayawada (15-18 February) and Visakhapatnam (27-29 February).

Research

As part of the research into the impact of the **Saarathi** project, Focus Group Discussions in 18 children's homes in Andhra Pradesh have taken place. The research aims to demonstrate improvement in frontline workers' legal knowledge and counseling skills when supporting children at-risk. The project aims to train 1,500 government social welfare workers across the State.

A **Mapping of Secondary Schools** in Sambalpur, Orissa led by Kusuma Foundation has been completed and a report on the findings will be available in late February. The study has recorded the number of students, subject-specialist teachers, teaching post vacancies and School Management Development Committees. It also assessed the state of the schools' infrastructure and facilities, including buildings, libraries and laboratories. A similar mapping survey will commence in HarDOI, Uttar Pradesh on 1 March.

Research is underway into the **Kusuma Mid-Day Meals** project. Its purpose is to assess the programme's impact on the academic performance of students and their knowledge of life skills.



A Young Achiever student during a lecture at a college in Warangal, Andhra Pradesh
Photo: Sam Strickland

Other News

Pragathi Seva Samithi is in discussion with the British Council to secure online English courses for **Kusuma Young Achiever Award** students.

Piling work has commenced at the construction site of the **Mid-Day Meal Kitchen** in Bhubaneswar and electricity will be connected in February.

The **Kusuma School of Biological Sciences** has bought a Microarray and Fluorescence Activated Cell Sorter and will buy a Cryo-Electron Microscope before 31 March.