

Newsletter



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The quarter of April, May and June saw a number of activities undertaken by 'Adar Poonawalla Clean City Initiative' (APCCI). Building up on it's efforts APCCI continued with its volunteering activities on weekends adding more NGOs and young volunteers in it's collaborative efforts. APCCI's Clean City Talks' continued to inspire young volunteers with guidance from experts on sustainability and leadership. One of the major highlights of this quarter was 'Majhi Wari Swachh Wari', a movement initiated by APCCI to help clean Palkhi route covering a total 140 km of roads from Pune city till Saswad and Yawat.

Different Paths, One Goal – Sustainability.

APCCI had an opportunity to host three changemakers- Prof. Jayant Mahajan, Pradeep Kumar, and Priya Kumari who told about their remarkable journeys and the road ahead at the 'Clean City Talks'. The session was seventh in the series organised by Adar Poonawalla Clean City Initiative (APCCI). Which aims to explore different aspects of leadership and what we all can learn to make our city better and more livable.

Mr. Krishnan Komandur, CEO APCCI, Mr. Malhar Karwande, COO APCCI, Mr. Aashish Marathe General Manager, APCCI and Mr. Sathya Natarajan, Lead Volunteer APCCI were present on the occasion.

Prof. Jayant Mahajan, a management professor, is currently on sabbatical and cycling across India's borders and remote regions to raise awareness about environmental sustainability. Meanwhile, Pradeep Kumar and Priya Kumari are scaling mountains to advocate for reducing plastic waste and improving menstrual hygiene. All three are part of Change before Climate Change, an initiative founded by visionary social entrepreneur Roopesh Rai to empower individuals in the sustainability movement.

Their stories highlight the power of determination and focus. Pradeep Kumar, who overcame serious medical challenges, believes illness is often more mental than physical. His mindset shift led him undertake cycling expeditions in past three years. Priya Kumari now aims to climb even higher peaks in the Himalayas and beyond, carrying forward her message on plastic waste and menstrual hygiene.

As Prof. Mahajan emphasized, raising awareness isn't just a one-way mission—it's a journey that reveals India's rich diversity and continuously fuels our inspiration to act.

These changemakers remind us of the incredible passion and resilience that young leaders bring to the fight for a sustainable future.



Prof. Jayant Mahajan

'It's not just about raising awareness— it's a journey that constantly inspires action'



Pradeep Kumar

' Illness is more mental health than physical, mindset is everything'



Priya Kumari

'want to carry forward the message by conquering more peaks'

When young minds take their ideas from 'Mind to Market'



It was an insightful and intriguing discussion as students from Dr. Bhanuben Nanavati College of Architecture for Women (BNCA) gave a presentation at the 'Clean City Talks'. The session was sixth in the series organised by Adar Poonawalla Clean City Initiative (APCCI). which aims to explore different aspects of leadership and what we all can learn to make our city better and more liveable.

Mr. Krishnan Komandur, CEO APCCI, Mr. Malhar Karwande, COO APCCI, Mr. Aashish Marathe General Manager, APCCI and Mr.Sathya Natarajan, Lead Volunteer APCCI were present on the occasion.

Ms. Trupti Thapa, Ms. Mohini Mandke, and Ms. Radhika Joshi, along with their mentor and Associate Professor Mr. Mahesh Bangad, presented an impressive project: a transit storage unit for dry waste, collaboratively executed by a team of 20 students.

The collection unit installed at Sinhagad Road is being used and appreciated by the waste warriors. The unit features multiple compartments, making waste segregation easier and more efficient. Its user-friendly and cost-effective design showcases the creativity, practical thinking, and skill of the young architects. The presentation sparked a lively discussion among the waste warriors and APCCI staff on how such initiatives could be expanded and refined further. After all, we all share a common goal—a sustainable, cleaner future.

Mr. Krishnan Komandur, CEO, APCCI emphasized the importance of continuity, noting that since this is a student-led initiative, it's vital to ensure that future batches carry the baton forward, building upon and enhancing the existing work.

The students' thoughtful approach—balancing functionality, ease of use, and aesthetic appeal within the context of modern urban environments—was truly inspiring. It's heartening to witness such dedication and innovation from the next generation of architects and changemakers.



The cage, built by 20 BNCA students, has been installed at Sinhagad Road and is being used by sanitation workers. It can store various types of dry and recyclable waste in various compartments.



Environmental Health: Safeguarding Our Future, Sustaining Our Planet



A good ecosystem and dignity for waste warriors to carry out their duties and awareness amongst citizens can bring about change in the way we handle waste and pave the way for a healthier environment.

Mr. Krishnan Komandur, CEO, Adar Poonawalla Clean City Initiative expressed his thoughts at the recently held Climate Action and Sustainability Conference Awards (CASCA' 25). He along with an expert panel including Mr. Sanjay Khajuria, Former Director – Corporate Affairs & Sustainability, Nestlé India and Maj Gen Vijay Singh Lalotra (Retd), Former Additional Director General, Territorial Army were speaking at the 'Thought Leader's' panel on the topic 'Institutional synergy for Sustainability'.

The Session was moderated by dynamic Mr. Amitabh Shah, Founder of Yuva Unstoppable. CASCA 2025, presented by M3M Foundation and organized by The CSR Universe, brought together global leaders, experts, policymakers, and innovators under the powerful theme: "Driving Sustainable Transformation for a Resilient and Inclusive Future."

Mr. Krishnan Komandur, CEO, Adar Poonawalla Clean City Initiative said that the initiative was started by Industrialist and Philanthropist Mr. Adar Poonawalla in 2016 inspired by the clarion call given by Hon. Prime Minister Shri. Narendra Modi during the launch of 'Swachh Bharat Mission'.

Mr. Krishnan who has been in the space of sustainability and waste management since 1994 said that the mission of APCCI is to maintain our city clean and make it more livable. To achieve it we need to ensure that our waste warriors are given a good ecosystem and dignity of work. The state-of-the-art machines commissioned by APCCI along with modern tools and tackles have ensured that waste warriors don't have to come in contact with waste. He said that it gives us immense satisfaction to see most of them come to the mainstream of living and their kids getting proper education and upbringing.

Today APCCI has become a citizen's movement cleaning about 600 km of roads per day with 600 waste warriors and 300 machines, weekend cleanliness activities and awareness sessions.



Mr. Krishnan Komandur
CEO APCCI

'To achieve it, we need to ensure that our waste warriors are given a good ecosystem and dignity to work'



Info Corner



Why Effective Waste Management Is Crucial for a Healthy Future

From kitchen scraps and plastic packaging to old electronics and discarded clothing, the issue of waste is growing larger by the day. Adding to the challenge are harmful disposal methods such as open dumping and burning, which not only worsen pollution but also pose serious risks to human health and the environment. This isn't new information—but the urgency of the situation is only increasing.

Despite knowing the dangers, many of us assume our responsibility ends the moment we take out the trash. The truth is far from it. According to the [United Nations Environment Programme](#), global municipal solid waste is expected to grow from 2.1 billion tonnes in 2023 to a staggering 3.8 billion tonnes by 2050.

Without proper segregation, a significant portion ends up in open landfills, contaminating our air, soil, and water. The consequences? Poor water quality, respiratory diseases, infections, and other serious health conditions.

The growing pile of electronic waste and single-use plastics adds another layer to the problem. Open landfills not only threaten public health—they degrade the beauty and liveability of our cities.

And it's not just land that's suffering—our rivers and oceans have become dumping grounds for waste, further endangering ecosystems and marine life.

If we want to change course, we must act together.



Info Corner

Why Effective Waste Management Is Crucial for a Healthy Future

What Can We Do as Individuals?

While systemic changes and institutional efforts are essential, meaningful progress begins at home. Small actions can lead to big results:

1. Segregate your waste into dry and wet categories.
2. Dispose of old electronics through authorized e-waste collection centers.
3. Avoid single-use plastics and opt for reusable alternatives.
4. Participate in cleanliness activities – partner with a local volunteering group or an NGO to champion the cause of cleanliness.

Perhaps most importantly, we need to reduce waste at the source. As consumerism rises with increasing disposable incomes, it's easy to buy more than we need. But every purchase has a footprint.

Ask yourself: Do I really need this? Is it eco-friendly? Can it be reused or recycled?

The key lies in understanding what constitutes waste—and what can still be a resource. By rethinking our habits and choices, we can reduce the burden on global waste systems and move toward a cleaner, healthier planet.

Let's make every day a World Health Day—by managing our waste wisely and living more sustainably.



Mission Sustainable Marathons

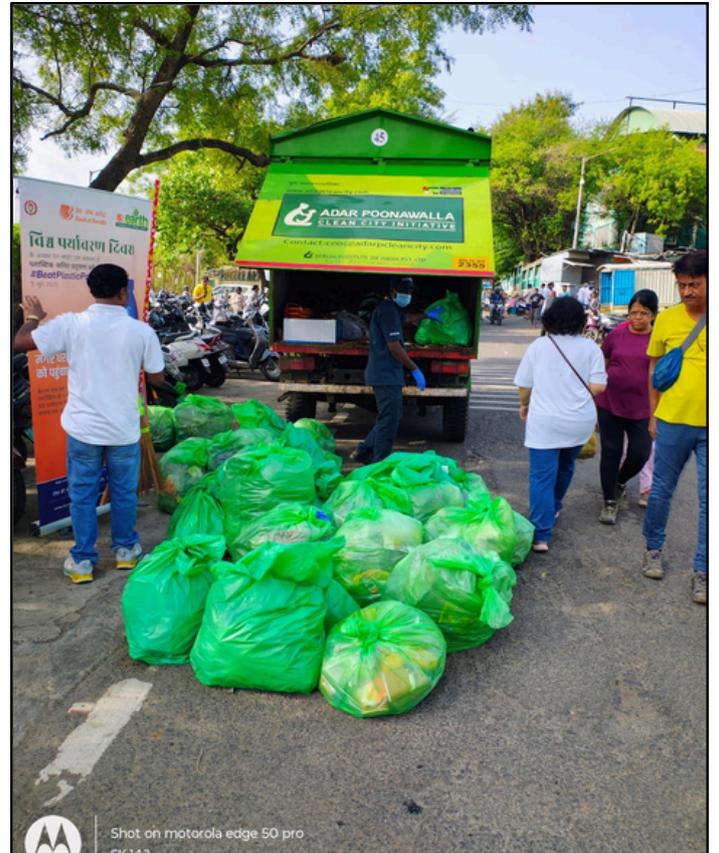
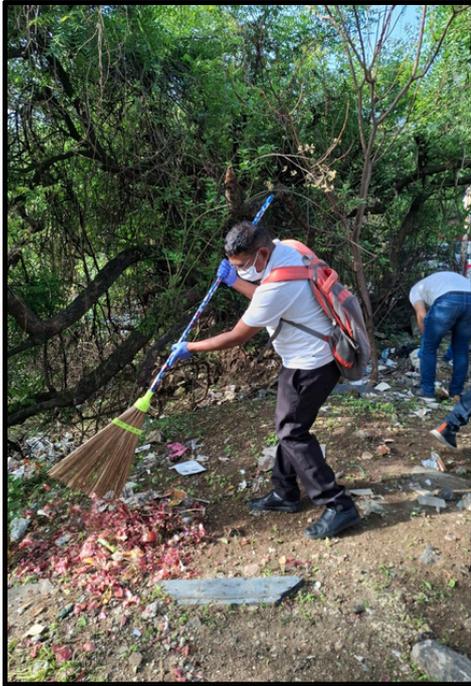
- Vrukshathon



Mission Sustainable Marathons



Clean Up Drive



Clean Up Drive

- **Apla Pune Cyclothon**



Clean Up Drive



APCCI wins 'Best waste management organization of the year' at CASCA awards 2025



Adar Poonawalla Clean City Initiative has been recognized with the prestigious CASCA sustainability Award at the 7th ESG Summit & Awards 2025 held in Delhi.

APCCI received the title of "Best Waste Management Organization of the year" honoring its continuous efforts to build cleaner, greener, and more sustainable urban environments.

The award was accepted by Mr. Krishnan Komandur (CEO) and Mr. Sathaya Natarajan lead volunteer who also represented APCCI during the panel discussion on 'Adaptive ESG Leadership: Leading change from the top'.

APCCI's innovative approaches and grassroots engagement continue to set benchmark in environmental leadership.



Mr. Krishnan Komandur
CEO APCCI

'This recognition reaffirms our mission of creating replicable models for sustainable city waste management'



'My Wari, Swach Wari' gets Good Response

A team of over 1200 volunteers, NGOs and Gram panchayats teamed up to collect 90 tons of dry waste over a period of four days from 20 June to 24 June 2025. The cleanliness drive was a part of 'My Wari, Swach Wari' movement initiated by 'Adar Poonawalla Clean City Initiative'(APCCI) to help clean Palkhi route covering a total 140 km of roads from Pune city till Saswad and Yawat.

The cleanliness drive is conducted every year where the roads are cleaned within few hours of Palkhi procession by Adar Poonawalla Clean City, Gram panchayats of Loni Kalbhor, Kunjirwadi, Sortapwadi, Uruli Kanchan, Wadki, Saswad, Dive Kalewadi, Zhendewadi, Yavat and volunteers from these villages along with Pune Municipal Corporation who have been a valuable part of the campaign.

This year APCCI installed 65 green nets at various places to enable volunteers to collect and segregate waste without any hassles. Also more than 136 garbage pickup vehicles and machines were pressed into service. APCCI COO Mr. Malhar Karwande, APCCI manager Mr Nilesh Ramekar visited all the villages for coordination and mobilized the volunteers through WhatsApp groups. The dry waste which was collected separately included plastic bottles, paper cups etc. The volunteers were provided with material for cleaning including plogging bags.

NGOs and institutions who have always been a valuable part of the drive include Barclays bank, PMC, Mojhe School, Islamic India, Sayas Foundation, KCB, PCB, ASR Services, karmayogini mahila group Hadapsar, Raje Club, Shewalewadi Mahila Mandal, Shambhu Raje Sanskrutik Mandal Krmayogini Group, Jay hind Groups, Vishwa Hindu Parishad, Paryavaran Sanrakshan Samiti, Sudarshan Yuva Foundation, Gramin Vikas Vidyalaya, Deams Yuva Social Foundation, Karamaai Foundation, Sant Sopankaka Sahakari Bank, Ulali Kanchan Sahjapur, Saswad Nagarparishad aani Vaghire College.

ULBs and volunteer groups worked hard to plan this cleanliness drive for the last fifteen days and over 1200 local volunteers along with 350 APCCI waste warriors were mobilized for this task. APCCI provided the volunteer groups with garbage collection bags, hand gloves and garbage pickup vehicles.

The movement was carried out under the guidance of APCCI CEO Mr. Krishnan Komandur.

Clean Up Drive



Clean Up Drive



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ADAR POONAWALLA CLEAN CITY INITIATIVE

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ADAR POONAWALLA CLEAN CITY INITIATIVE

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SESSION 05

Guidance by Shailaja Deshpande Founder Director Jeevitnadi - Living River Foundation 2:37

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Krishnan Komand 1:41

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WEEKEND CLEANLINESS ACTIVITY

MISSION SUSTAINABLE MARATHONS 23 views

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WEEKEND ACTIVITY

WORLD HEALTH DAY 7th April 2025 48 views

Blog



Why Earth Day Matters?

April 22, 2025

Every year people around the world celebrate 'Earth Day' on 22nd April. The day was proclaimed as International Mother Earth Day (<https://www.unep.org/events/un-day/international-mother-earth-day-2025>) through a resolution adopted in 2009. It is a powerful reminder that this planet is the only home we have, but this home is faced with deepening environmental challenges that need to be addressed urgently. What a beautiful Planet! One doesn't need to travel far to experience this. It is just around us. Whether it is the hills with refreshing green cover and native trees, whether it is the ...

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Plastic Pollution – The Tide Can Be Turned

June 05, 2025

Plastic has become an integral part of our daily lives due to its low cost, lightweight nature, durability, and convenience. However, when misused or disposed of carelessly, it poses a serious threat to ecosystems, wildlife, marine environments, and even human health. The World Environment Day is celebrated every year on 5 June and highlights the importance of adopting sustainable practices for a better future. The theme this year is "Ending Plastic Pollution" According to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), an estimated 19 to 23 million tonnes of plastic waste enter aquatic ecosystems ...

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World Health Day – Why Effective Waste Management Is Crucial for a Healthy Future

April 07, 2025

From kitchen scraps and plastic packaging to old electronics and discarded clothing, the issue of waste is growing larger by the day. Adding to the challenge are harmful disposal methods such as open dumping and burning, which not only worsen pollution but also pose serious risks to human health and the environment. This isn't new information—but the urgency of the situation is only increasing. Despite knowing the dangers, many of us assume our responsibility ends the moment we take out the trash. The truth is far from it. According to the United Nations Environment Programme, globa...

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Environmental Health: Safeguarding Our Future, Sustaining Our Planet

May 08, 2025



A good ecosystem and dignity for waste warriors to carry out their duties and awareness amongst citizens can bring about change in the way we handle waste and pave the way for a healthier environment. Mr. Krishnan Komandur, CEO, Adar Poonawalla Clean City Initiative expressed his thoughts at the recently held Climate Action and Sustainability Conference Awards (CASCA' 25). He along with an expert panel including Mr. Sanjay Khajuria, Former Director – Corporate Affairs ...

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Our everyday actions at home can play a crucial role in preserving river ecosystems

April 05, 2025



Lack of people connect is the root cause of almost all the major issues related to river. Shailaja Deshpande, founder director of Jeevitnadi - Living River Foundation. Safeguarding river ecology is possible if we all get together and contribute through our own individual actions. Shailaja Deshpande was at the Adar Poonawalla Clean City Initiative (APCCI) office to interact with the waste warriors and young volunteers as a part of 'Clean City Talks'. The session was ...

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Different Paths, One Goal – Sustainability

May 27, 2025



APCCI had an opportunity to host three changemakers- Prof. Jayant Mahajan, Pradeep Kumar, and Priya Kumari who told about their remarkable journeys and the road ahead at the 'Clean City Talks'. The session was seventh in the series organised by Adar Poonawalla Clean City Initiative (APCCI), which aims to explore different aspects of leadership and what we all can learn to make our city better and more liveable. Mr. Krishnan Komandur, CEO APCCI, Mr. Malhar Karwande, COO ...

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World Ocean Day 2025

June 08, 2025

Our Oceans: Our Responsibility June 8th—World Ocean Day—is more than a day on the calendar. It's a time for reflection, a time for awareness, and most of all, a time for action. Our oceans cover over 70% of the planet's surface, support 80% of all life on Earth, and create over half the oxygen we breathe. They help regulate the climate, support billions of humans with livelihoods and food, and yield unparalleled beauty and biodiversity. And yet, the oceans are in crisis. The Current Reality: A Deepening Crisis Our oceans today suffer from alarming levels of pollution, overuse, and abandonment. Milli...

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When young minds take their ideas from 'Mind to Market'

May 16, 2025



It was an insightful and intriguing discussion as students from Dr. Bhanuben Nanavati College of Architecture for Women (BNCA) gave a presentation at the 'Clean City Talks'. The session was sixth in the series organised by Adar Poonawalla Clean City Initiative (APCCI), which aims to explore different aspects of leadership and what we all can learn to make our city better and more liveable. Mr. Krishnan Komandur, CEO APCCI, Mr. Malhar Karwande, COO APCCI, Mr. Aashish ...

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Students from Symbiosis College and the APCCI team came together for a clean-up drive at the Kharadi Site, Kharadi Gera ground on 2nd March 2025, proving that small actions lead to big changes! From collecting waste to spreading awareness. ...more

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It was an absolute pleasure to welcome Shalaja Deshpande as part of Clean City an initiative by APCCI, where we explore sustainability and leadership with changemakers working to create cleaner, greener cities. ...more

with Sathya Natarajan and 6 others

Sameer Ranade and 23 others · 1 comment · 3 reposts

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It was a moment of pride for 'Adar Poonawalla Clean City Initiative' (APCCI) to receive the 'Best Waste Management Organisation of the Year' award at the recently held 7th ESG Summits & Awards in Delhi, organised by **Transformance Forums**. ...more

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A cleaner tomorrow starts with efforts taken today. APCCI Team joined hands with 8,000 participants from the AplaPune Cyclothon for a Clean-up Drive. This collective effort was a step towards building a cleaner, ...more

Sathya Natarajan and 12 others · 1 repost

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The annual 'Vrukshathon' organized by the Vrukshathon Foundation, Pune Police, and the Forest Department—is more than just a run. It's a celebration of fitness, environmental awareness, and community spirit. ...more

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Changemakers Unite at Clean City Talks!
The seventh edition of Clean City Talks by APCCI was nothing short of inspiring. We had the privilege of hearing from Prof. **Jayant Mahajan**, Pradeep Kumar ...more

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It was a pleasure to host the talented students of **Dr. Bharuben Nanavati College of Architecture for Women (BNCA)** at the sixth edition of Clean City Talks, an APCCI initiative focused on sustainability and leadership. ...more

with Sathya Natarajan and 7 others

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Adar Poonawalla Clean City Initiative (APCCI) is proud to have participated in the Plastic Clean-Up Drive organised by **Bank of Baroda**, Pune Zone on Sunday, 1st June 2025, at Taja Tekdi, Pune, as part of World Environment Day initiative. ...more

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