

YOUTH CLIMATE CONCLAVE CASE STORY



Message



In the face of the global climate crisis, the resilience, creativity, and determination of young minds have emerged as beacons of hope. As an organization, TERI is steadfast in its commitment to its goal of accelerating the shift to a cleaner and more sustainable future by conserving energy and other resources, using them efficiently, and coming up with creative solutions to reduce and reuse waste. Investing in education and outreach is a powerful way to impact consumer behavior and decision-making, enabling young people to make a substantial contribution to climate change.

It is with immense pride and optimism that I present the YCC Case Story, a compendium of ten inspiring success stories contributed by the youth of India. These narratives are not merely tales of individual triumphs; they are powerful testaments to the transformative potential of collective action, innovation, and a steadfast commitment to sustainability.

The Youth Climate Conclave (YCC) has always been a platform to empower young individuals, fostering their ability to address the pressing challenges of climate change. Through this initiative, TERI seeks to amplify the voices of young changemakers who are not only envisioning a sustainable future but are also actively working to create it.

I hope this compilation inspires individuals, communities, and policymakers alike to recognize and support the invaluable contributions of young people in building a sustainable world. Together, let us continue to nurture this energy and commitment, ensuring that the next generation is empowered to lead us toward a more resilient and equitable future.

Dr Vibha Dhawan,
Director General, TERI

Project Team



Delegation of the European Union to India

- Mr Bartosz Przywara, Counsellor, Energy, Climate Action, Environment, Delegation of the European Union to India
- Ms Johanna Mansson-Delerce, Attaché – Climate, Energy & Environment, Delegation of the European Union to India

Special Acknowledgement

Mr Edwin Koekkoek, Counsellor, Green Inclusive Development, Delegation of the European Union to Bangladesh

PricewaterhouseCoopers Private Limited (PwC India)

- Mr Chirag Gajjar, Director, Decarbonization- Climate & Energy, PwC
- Mr Nidhin Davis K, Senior Associate – Climate and Clean Energy, PwC

The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI)

- Dr Livleen K Kahlon, Associate Director & Senior Fellow, Environment Education & Awareness (EEA) Division, TERI
- Ms Taru Mehta, Area Convenor & Senior Fellow, Education for Youth Empowerment (EYE) Area, EEA Division, TERI
- Ms Monmi Barua, Fellow, EYE Area, EEA Division, TERI
- Mr Ravi Sankar Das, Associate Fellow, EYE Area, EEA Division, TERI
- Ms Radhika Krishnan, Secretary, EYE Area, EEA Division, TERI
- Mr Rohit Chauhan, Senior Web Designer, Information Technology and Services Division, TERI
- Mr Santosh Gautam, Senior Visualizer, Communications & Publications Division, TERI

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1. Introduction to YCC



Climate change is one of the most critical challenges of our time, posing significant risks to the environment, economy, and human welfare. The rapid increase in greenhouse gas (GHG) levels has led to rising sea levels, biodiversity loss, and threats to food security and livelihoods. Immediate, collective action at all levels is essential to combat climate change through GHG reduction, renewable energy transitions, adaptation measures, and sustainable development. India has made significant strides, where notably, India is the first country to implement a comprehensive Cooling Action Plan to enhance energy efficiency and promote advanced technologies.

Action to address climate change has never been more critical, as the Climate Diplomacy Week (first introduced to the public in 2019), which has become a landmark annual event where European Union (EU) Delegations and embassies of EU Member States around the world host events to foster dialogue and cooperation on Climate Change. Efforts have also been made by the India–EU Clean Energy and Climate Partnership (CECP) project, which is one of the main projects implementing the Clean Energy and Climate Partnership.

Youth Climate Conclave (YCC) is one such project being held under the CECP project to bring together children and youth from across the country to join hands and address climate change through modes that are competitive as well as educative.

Youth Climate Conclave

Youth have a critical role in combating climate change. The aim of YCC is to engage youth in positive and proactive way in science-based discussions on the most relevant climate change issues and in the process identify opportunities for youth & governments to drive joint action to fulfil the climate change agenda. YCC has implemented targeting youth in two age categories: 10– 18 years and 19–25 years. Since 2019, five editions have been organized, and in the upcoming phases, we strive to reach out to young stakeholders with the goal of strengthening abilities related to critical thinking, creativity, scientific understanding, communication, multilingualism, and digital literacy.

A few salient features include competitions (photography, blogging, and short video) for an action-oriented youth engagement, followed by their capacity building on issues leading to an outcome document—Youth Declaration on Climate Action and a Youth Pledge.

YCC 2025 is being held under the India–EU Clean Energy and Climate Partnership

YOUTH CLIMATE CONCLAVE

Launched on October 4, 2019, the conclave targets children and youth from 10- 25 years. It is a competitive and educative mode of action, wherein youth from across the country deliberate over the issues of Climate Change.



(CECP), financed and managed by the Delegation of the European Union to India. TERI has been implementing the annual flagship event, the YCC since 2019. This conclave with knowledge support from the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (Government of India), Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW), and Climate Fresk aims to serve as both a competition platform and a forum for education, uniting children and youth from across the country to collaborate in addressing climate change issues.

Major milestones of YCC (2019–2024)

- Engaged 8471 Indian youth in YCC and linked activities.
- Involved 96 global experts to share their understanding about climate change with youth.
- Provided opportunities to enhance competencies of 90 youth members as interviewers, speakers, and debaters to raise their concern about climate change-related issues.
- Developed 12 winning short videos on climate change views.
- Showcased eco-club activities from 8 state nodal agencies from India.
- Published a monograph titled, 'Young Voices for the Planet'.
- Design of annual calendars showcasing photograph entries received in YCC.
- Organization of two official photo exhibitions in Delhi-NCR.
- Selection of YCC as one of the 70 projects showcased in the fifth edition of the Paris Peace Forum in Paris, 2022.

- Publication of YCC articles in WSDS e-Bulletin; International Climate Initiative (IKI) and Special edition of IUCN CEESP newsletter: International Youth Day.

YCC 5th edition

Commemorating International Youth Day, a virtual launch of the 5th edition of the Youth Climate Conclave (YCC) along with an announcement of the Photography Competition was organized on August 12, 2024. The conclave featured a series of pre-event activities for children and youth, including a youth photography competition, a two-day knowledge enrichment session aligned with TERI's World Sustainable Development Summit 2025, and an exclusive educational excursion to provide evidence-based learning to empower youth in combating climate change. Enhancing skills such as critical thinking, creativity, scientific understanding, communication, collaboration, multilingualism, problem-solving, ethical awareness, social responsibility, and digital literacy among Indian youth were some of the major highlights of YCC 2025. Youth also got an opportunity to draft a 'Youth Pledge' that was presented during the World Sustainable Development Summit 2025 (<https://wds.teriin.org/2025/>). The 5th edition of YCC promised to be an interesting event with high-level speakers, discussions and interviews by youth, video messages, case studies, etc. Entries by youth submitted under an exclusive photography competition conducted under YCC were also showcased and promoted.

Major highlights of the YCC 2025 were:

- YCC Photography Exhibition
- EduXcursion trip for students to TERI Retreat Gwal Pahari
- Capacity building technical sessions
- Launch of 'YCC Case Story'
- Prize distribution ceremony during Youth Plenary at WSDS 2025
- Presentation of the Youth Pledge at WSDS 2025

2. YCC Case Stories

As part of the 5th edition, YCC alumni were invited to share their unique experiences, insights, and initiatives related to combating climate change. The aim of the 'YCC Case Story' is to inspire young individuals and communities by highlighting real-world examples of how determination and creativity can drive meaningful change. This special feature brings together the top ten success stories contributed by Indian youth, showcasing their efforts in promoting sustainability and climate resilience.

From grassroots initiatives to community-driven projects, these stories reflect the transformative power of youth engagement in tackling one of the most critical issues of our time. By sharing their experiences, YCC alumni encourage others to take action, proving that even small steps can lead to significant environmental impact.

'Journey to Sustainable Student Elections' by Ashraf Nehal, The Commonwealth Secretariat, London – An alumnus of 1st Edition of YCC

A group of young activists gathered to discuss a daunting issue: the increasing waste generated during the annual student elections. Among them was Ashraf, a recent university graduate with a background in literature and politics. Until recently, he had only a vague understanding of climate challenge, however witnessing the mountains of discarded paper, posters, and plastic from the campaigns ignited a passion within him that he had never expected.





Ashraf's transformation began when he attended the Youth Climate Conclave (YCC). Here, he found not just information, but a community that shared his concerns. The workshops and discussions opened his eyes to the intricacies of climate action, from mitigation strategies to the importance of adaptation. Inspired, he realized that his skills in communication and critical thinking could be directed towards meaningful change.

Armed with newfound knowledge and a sense of purpose, Ashraf rallied his peers to address the waste problem. They organized clean-up drives but quickly recognized that these were merely band-aid solutions. Ashraf proposed a more sustainable approach: creating a comprehensive waste management plan. With the support of YCC mentors, he developed a proposal that emphasized reducing paper waste by transitioning to digital campaigns and encouraging candidates to use recyclable materials for any necessary physical items.

The proposal was met with scepticism. Many believed that traditions were hard to change. However, Ashraf and his team presented their case with fervour, highlighting the environmental impact and the potential for a more modern, engaging process. They conducted workshops to educate candidates about sustainable practices and showcased examples of successful digital campaigns from other institutions.

As the election date approached, Ashraf faced his biggest challenge: ensuring that the candidates would adhere to the new guidelines. He organized meetings, reached out to student organizations, and even collaborated with faculty to gain support. Slowly, attitudes began to shift. Candidates started to see the benefits of a cleaner campaign, not only for the environment but also for their public image. By transforming his university's approach to elections, he had not only sparked a movement but had also discovered his life's passion—ensuring that youth voices would not just be heard but would lead the charge for a sustainable future.

Encouraged by this victory, Ashraf continued his engagement with YCC, mobilizing youth to participate in larger platforms like the UN Climate Change Conference. The skills he honed through his initial campaign work—communication, negotiation, and collaboration—became invaluable as he navigated these complex international platforms.

As he looked towards the future, Ashraf envisions expanding his impact. He has been planning to combine his academic pursuits in climate governance with grassroots advocacy, ensuring that the lessons learned from his local efforts resonated on a larger scale. His journey, ignited by a single moment of realization, had blossomed into a commitment to transformative climate action, with the goal of empowering not just his peers, but communities worldwide.

'Inspiration to Climate Action' by Komal Tiwari, Software Engineer Intern, XPERI, Bangalore, Karnataka- An alumnus of 1st Edition of YCC

A group of young climate enthusiasts gathered for the Youth Climate Conclave (YCC). Among them was Komal, a spirited university student whose journey into climate action had just begun. Until then, her understanding of sustainability was limited to textbooks and fleeting discussions. Komal listened intently as experts spoke passionately during the conclave about climate change, its profound impacts, and the urgent need for youth involvement. As she absorbed the information, Komal felt a spark ignite within her—a desire to not only learn but also act.

During the hands-on visit as part of YCC, Komal witnessed real-world climate projects. She observed the intricate balance between technology and sustainability, and it fuelled her curiosity. The highlight of the conclave was a debate on "Preparedness



of Youth for Adapting Sustainable Lifestyles." She prepared her arguments, emphasizing the vital role of education and accessible resources in shaping eco-friendly habits. She drew from research, personal experiences, and insights gained from TERI's sessions. On the day of the debate, she stood at the podium, articulated her points with clarity, showcasing practical changes young people could adopt, such as reducing single-use plastics and conserving energy. Her words resonated, sparking nods and whispers among the audience. To her astonishment, Komal won first place in the debate. But the victory was more than a trophy; it was a validation of her efforts and a platform to inspire others. Participants approached her afterward, sharing how her ideas had resonated with them, igniting their own commitment to sustainable practices.

The impact of her participation extended far beyond the conclave. Komal's newfound confidence led her to organize workshops at her university, where she engaged fellow students in discussions about sustainability. They explored practical strategies for reducing their carbon footprint, advocating for eco-friendly campus policies, and initiating recycling programs. Her efforts created a ripple effect, encouraging greater awareness and responsibility among her peers.



Looking ahead, she envisions a future rich with possibilities. She plans to collaborate with organizations such as TERI to launch youth-centric sustainability campaigns, integrating climate education into academic and extracurricular activities. Her goal is to empower more young people to address environmental challenges confidently. In the long term, Komal aspires to pursue higher studies in environmental

sciences or policy-making. She dreams of developing scalable climate action projects that tackle renewable energy, waste management, and sustainable urban development.

'A Mission for Climate Awareness and Action' by Anchal Gautam, Student, Master of Technology in Computer Science, Himachal Pradesh University, Shimla- An alumna of 3rd Edition of YCC

A determined young advocate named Anchal embarked on a transformative journey that began at the Youth Climate Conclave (YCC). The conclave opened her eyes to the pressing challenges of climate change and ignited a passion for sustainability that would shape her future. Anchal had always cared about the environment, but YCC provided her with the skills and network necessary to turn that passion into action. At YCC, Anchal absorbed invaluable knowledge about policy analysis, negotiation, and effective communication. Surrounded by like-minded youth and seasoned policymakers, she realized that addressing climate change required collaboration and innovative thinking.



It was during these discussions that Anchal recognized a critical gap in climate awareness among youth and rural communities back home. This realization became the catalyst for her project: the Global Climate and Sustainability Alliance-Network (GCSA). Anchal understood that many local communities in Himachal Pradesh remained unaware of both the causes of these issues and potential solutions. She envisioned GCSA as a platform to raise awareness and build capacity for climate action among youth and rural residents.

The first step was outreach. Anchal organized webinars aimed at educating participants about the science of climate change and its local impacts. Drawing from her YCC experiences, she invited experts to lead discussions, fostering a deeper understanding of climate issues. Anchal tailored her approach to resonate with her audience, using relatable examples of changing rainfall patterns and their effects on farming. Her goal was to inspire participants to take actionable steps towards sustainability.

However, Anchal faced challenges along the way. Gaining the trust of local communities proved difficult; many viewed climate discussions as abstract concepts detached from their daily lives. She learned to speak their language, emphasizing practical solutions rather than overwhelming statistics. Beyond the



webinars, Anchal recognized the importance of hands-on involvement. She organized workshops in local schools, engaging students in discussions about sustainable practices. Together, they explored small changes—like reducing plastic use and conserving water—that could make a big difference. As GCSA grew, Anchal remained focused on expanding its reach. She envisioned partnerships with local NGOs to create a network of climate-conscious youth across rural India.

Anchal also planned to take her advocacy to international platforms, continuing to represent youth interests in forums like YOUNGO and the UNFCCC. She has been amplifying the voices of those in rural communities, ensuring they were included in climate policy discussions.

Anchal's journey, ignited by the YCC experience, became a testament to the power of youth-led initiatives. Her commitment to education and advocacy would empower communities, foster climate action, and create a sustainable future—one informed by local voices and driven by collective action.

'The Environmental Consortium' by Achintya Ghosal, Master Student, School of Ecology & Environment Studies, Nalanda University, Bihar- An alumnus of 4th Edition of YCC

Achintya found himself at the forefront of climate action after his transformative experience at the Youth Climate Conclave (YCC). YCC had opened his eyes to the ethical dimensions of climate change, and the urgency of youth involvement in decision-making processes became crystal clear to him. Achintya recognized the growing trend of youth tokenism in environmental summits, where young voices were often sidelined, merely invited for appearances rather than genuine engagement. Fuelled by this realization, he has committed to advocating for meaningful youth participation in climate policy.



Achintya had grown up witnessing the devastating impacts of climate change in his village: loss of livelihood, forced migration, and deteriorating agricultural conditions. These experiences inspired him to co-found The Environmental Consortium (TEC), an initiative focused on creating structured platforms for youth to engage in environmental governance. He believed that the absence of youth advisory boards within environmental organizations prevented young voices from being integrated into decision-making processes.

The first major initiative of TEC took shape during a workshop on Circular Economy, held in collaboration with the Indian Youth Climate Network and the Centre for Global Affairs & Public Policy. This event brought together various eco-clubs for the first time, revealing significant communication gaps and a lack of collaborative efforts among youth groups. The goal was to create a safe space where young people could discuss pressing environmental issues and propose actionable solutions. By inviting experts to lead discussions on topics ranging from climate finance to sustainable agriculture, Achintya ensured that participants could engage meaningfully with the material. With over 650 members from 35 institutions,



the consortium became a vibrant community. Participants began to share their experiences and knowledge with their peers, creating a ripple effect of awareness and action.

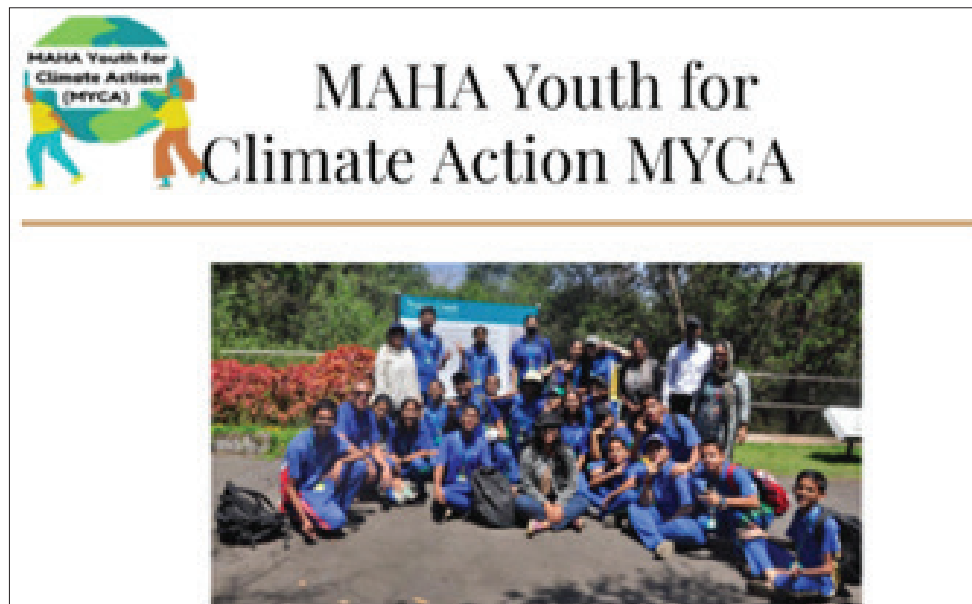
One of the significant challenges Achintya faced was overcoming the initial reluctance of participants who viewed environmental discussions as irrelevant or overly academic. To address this, he integrated immersive, hands-on learning experiences that connected theory to real-world challenges.

Achintya further aims to engage 500 youth participants directly through workshops and dialogues, while indirectly reaching over 5,000 individuals through advocacy campaigns and published reports. His vision includes creating a robust network of youth committed to environmental governance, ensuring that their voices would not only be heard but also acted upon. In the face of a climate crisis, Achintya's unwavering commitment to justice and equity positioned him as a beacon of hope. With the lessons learned from YCC and his tireless work through TEC, he is poised to drive meaningful change, creating a future where youth would no longer be mere spectators in the climate conversation but empowered agents of transformation.

'ReUpyog' by Shetty Nithi Nithyanand, Consultant Government of Maharashtra and Co-founder ReUpyog- An alumnus of 3rd Edition of YCC

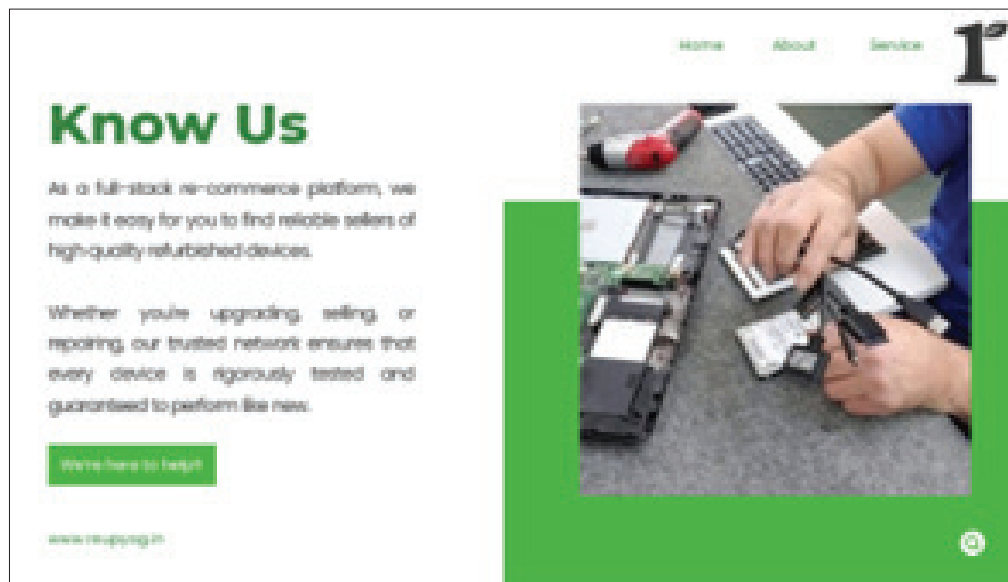
Nithi embarked on a transformative journey that began with her participation in the Youth Climate Conclave (YCC). The experience not only deepened her understanding of climate change but also ignited her passion for sustainable solutions. Nithi sought to engage with like-minded stakeholders to foster collaboration and innovation. She recognized the power of collective action in tackling climate challenges and was eager to invite others to join her mission.

Nithi's commitment to climate action led her to co-found ReUpyog, a recommerce marketplace for refurbished laptops and electronics. The problems she aimed to tackle were significant: a lack of reliable warranty options in the electronics market, the absence of trustworthy brands, and the digital divide affecting rural communities. As a female entrepreneur, she also faced unique challenges, including limited funding opportunities and networks.



Determined to make a difference, Nithi implemented several key actions. She introduced a health card trust, providing a one-year warranty on premium electronics to instill confidence among consumers. Recognizing the need for skilled technicians in the electronics repair market, she developed training modules to enhance their expertise. The impact of Nithi's initiatives was profound. By offering affordable and reliable refurbished electronics, ReUpyog successfully bridged the

digital divide, bringing technology to underserved rural communities. Customers were empowered to make environmentally friendly choices, significantly reducing their carbon footprints.



The measurable outcomes of Nithi's efforts were impressive. Over 500 youth were trained through her programmes, gaining skills that enhanced their employability. ReUpyog's commitment to refurbishing and reusing electronics resulted in the prevention of 1.5 tonnes of CO2 emissions annually—an achievement that underscored the importance of sustainable practices. Nithi also influenced public policy to promote eco-friendly initiatives, making strides towards a more responsible community.

Nithi envisioned expanding her efforts even further. She aims to extend ReUpyog's distribution network to tier 2 and 3 cities, ensuring that more people had access to affordable, sustainable electronics. She plans to upskill students in Industrial Training Institutes (ITI) using her training modules, preparing them for careers in renewable energy and sustainability. Additionally, she aims to secure funding for expanding export capabilities, allowing her to provide sustainable products to third-world countries and contribute to global climate action.

'Awareness to Community Action' by Aaryansh Mridu, Student, Laxman Public School, Delhi- An alumnus of 4th Edition of YCC

After participating in the Young Climate Conclave (YCC), Aaryansh found his passion for climate action ignited in ways he had never anticipated. While he had always been aware of global warming and environmental issues, YCC had provided him with a profound understanding of the urgency of the crisis and the tools to make a difference. Engaging panels featuring experts from the Government of India offered insights into innovative solutions for climate challenges. Aaryansh was captivated, not just by the topics discussed but by the inspiring stories of fellow young activists.

Recognizing the critical lack of climate awareness among his peers, Aaryansh decided to take action. He joined his school's Eco Club and proposed a plan to spread awareness about climate issues through peer-to-peer education. Aaryansh believed that engaging his fellow students in discussions and activities would create a domino effect, inspiring them to share what they learned with their own circles.



With his newfound determination, Aaryansh initiated 'Cleanliness Drive' in a local park, tackling waste management and pollution firsthand. Initially organized quarterly, the drive quickly gained traction, transforming into a bi-weekly event as more people joined. Through this initiative, Aaryansh emphasized the importance of waste segregation, street cleaning, and the dangers of burning plastics—practices that were all too common in their community. He was motivated by a proverb

he cherished: "A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step." Aaryansh believed that small actions, when multiplied, could lead to significant progress. Yet, starting this initiative was not without its challenges. Many in his community remained indifferent, unaware of the severity of the climate crisis. Aaryansh faced resistance, but his resolve only strengthened. He rallied around 20 students and 10 adults to join his cause, a testament to his perseverance.



Aaryansh's clean-up drives quickly garnered attention, not just for their impact on the environment but also for fostering a sense of community ownership. As they collected litter and educated passersby, the group began to inspire others, creating a ripple effect. The measurable outcomes of Aaryansh's initiatives were promising. Through consistent efforts, the park became cleaner, and the community's awareness of environmental issues increased significantly. Conversations around climate action flourished, transforming the local culture towards greater environmental responsibility. Inspired by the community's response, he felt an unwavering determination to amplify his efforts, ensuring that the voices of young climate advocates echoed louder than ever.

With his success igniting a fire within him, Aaryansh envisioned even bigger plans. He aims to increase the frequency of cleanliness drives and develop workshops

that would equip community members with practical skills for sustainable living. He is determined to empower others, transforming awareness into action, and his commitment to the environment solidified further through ongoing mentorship and collaboration with YCC alumni.

'From Indifference to Advocacy' by Pulkit Jain, Student, Bluebells School International, Delhi- An alumnus of 4th Edition of YCC

Pulkit's life took a transformative turn after participating in the Young Climate Conclave(YCC) programme, which opened his eyes to the pressing issues surrounding climate change. Initially indifferent to environmental concerns, Pulkit found himself deeply inspired by the realities of pollution and the urgency to protect the planet.

Before joining YCC, Pulkit had a limited understanding of how his actions affected the environment. However, through engaging workshops and powerful discussions, he learned about the detrimental effects of pollution. The Conclave encouraged him to take action in his community, igniting a passion for environmental advocacy. Armed with newfound knowledge and determination, Pulkit began envisioning a cleaner, greener future.



The first challenge he identified was the rampant environmental pollution in his community, particularly in the form of littered streets and overflowing garbage bins. This not only marred the beauty of the neighbourhood but also posed health risks to residents and endangered local wildlife. Realizing that the core issue stemmed from a lack of awareness about proper waste disposal, Pulkit decided to take action. His first step was to organize workshops aimed at educating his peers and community members about the importance of proper waste management. Utilizing engaging visuals and real-life examples, he explained the health and environmental consequences of littering. Pulkit distributed flyers and set up informational posters around the neighbourhood, emphasizing simple actions, like segregating wet and dry waste, that could lead to meaningful change.



He spearheaded cleanup drives in local parks and public spaces. Equipped with gloves and garbage bags, he led teams of enthusiastic volunteers, including other YCC members, to tackle the litter head-on. They worked tirelessly, often facing challenges such as hazardous waste and the reluctance of some community members. Yet, the immediate transformation of these spaces was immensely rewarding, inspiring more individuals to join the cause.

Recognizing that education and cleanup efforts alone wouldn't

resolve the issues, Pulkit collaborated with local authorities to install colour-coded bins for waste segregation in key areas. He also partnered with a waste management organization to establish a regular collection system for recyclables. Furthermore, he initiated composting workshops, teaching residents how to convert kitchen waste into nutrient-rich fertilizer. These sustainable solutions were essential for ensuring lasting change.

However, Pulkit's journey wasn't without obstacles. Initial skepticism from some community members posed a challenge. To overcome this, he engaged directly with them, listening to their concerns and explaining the long-term benefits of the

initiative. Gradually, their attitudes shifted, and even the most doubtful began to support the cause.

By the end of the campaign, the transformation was evident. Public spaces were cleaner, and residents had embraced better waste management habits. The composting workshops were a hit, with many households starting to compost their organic waste, leading to a healthier ecosystem.

Pulkit's experience with YCC deepened his understanding of environmental issues and the importance of sustainable practices. He learned that awareness, collaboration, and persistence are a key to overcoming challenges. Looking ahead, Pulkit plans to expand his efforts, focusing on long-term sustainability and community engagement. He aims to organize regular workshops, awareness campaigns, and cleanup drives, encouraging more people to embrace eco-friendly practices. Partnering with local organizations, he envisions innovative solutions to track and reduce waste.

'From Local Action to Global Vision' by Jahnab Dewri, Student, Spring Dale International School, Guwahati- An alumnus of 2nd Edition of YCC

Attending the second edition of the Youth Climate Conclave (YCC) proved to be a volatile journey for Jahnab Dewri. The Conclave provided him with a unique platform to network with like-minded individuals and experts to enhance his understanding of climate policy and sustainable practices. A highlight of the conference was the opportunity to engage with these experts, who shared real-world examples of successful climate initiatives supported by the EU and France. These meetings highlighted the importance of international cooperation, emphasizing the importance of innovation and transnational cooperation in addressing climate change. Inspired by the passion and dedication of these leaders, he began to think beyond local challenges and adopted a global perspective on sustainability.



Armed with new knowledge and inspiration, and embarked on a series of motivational climate actions in his community. He focused on raising awareness, simplifying complex climate issues and offering actionable solutions that young people can embrace. It included networking sessions that focused on everyday practices such as reducing single-use plastics, adopting energy-efficient technologies and supporting renewable energy initiatives. Together, they organized tree planting programmes, clean-up activities and workshops designed to be hands-on and foster a sense of responsibility among participants. These efforts encouraged active participation and nurtured a community committed to sustainability.



Recognizing the importance of engaging young minds, he spearheaded peer discussions and debates on climate-related topics in schools and colleges. These activities created a dialogue among youth, inspiring them to explore solutions and take ownership of their role in addressing climate challenges. The impact of these efforts was tangible and far-reaching. More than 150 people participated in events and campaigns, with a digital reach of 5,000 people and 800 engagements across all social media platforms. Behavioural change was evident, with 60% of participants taking sustainable actions such as reducing single-use plastics. The tree planting campaign

saw 300 saplings planted, with an impressive 85% survival rate, while clean-up operations removed 200 kg of rubbish, greatly enhancing public spaces.

These successes inspired his future climate plans. He intends to hold more events and campaigns to educate communities about climate change and the importance of individual contributions. Partnerships with community organizations, educational institutions and government agencies are central to its approach, giving projects

such as tree plantation promotion, biodiversity conservation projects and sanitation services a wider impact. Digital platforms are an important tool for amplifying that message and reaching a wider audience with actionable ideas on sustainable living. To ensure sustainable change, he plans to integrate climate education into school and college programmes to inspire young people to play an active role in environmental sustainability.

'Cultivating Change as a Researcher' by Ryan Pathak, Student Researcher, Indian Institute of Science Education and Research Thiruvananthapuram (IISER TVM), Guwahati- An alumnus of 1st Edition of YCC

Attending the Youth Climate Conclave (YCC) was a transformative experience that turned Ryan into a strong advocate for climate action. The summit provided a space to share concerns and contribute to global discussions on climate change—a space that once seemed reserved for officials and experts. Surrounded by like-minded peers and knowledgeable mentors he met, this young participant saw himself as a member in a collective effort that addressed environmental challenges and culminated in Youth the development of the Declaration, and reaffirmed its commitment to pursue impact follow-up contributions to sustainability.

Before attending the YCC, Ryan was aware of weather information but did not know where he could provide meaningful assistance. The summit dispelled this hesitation by demonstrating that every voice, regardless of age or background, matters in the planet's battles. This renewed confidence led to greater engagement in climate action, fuelling interest in finding solutions at the intersection of agriculture and climate resilience.

The proposed method was multi-faceted, combines experimental work and computational modelling. The experimental design analysed various factors in different crops, providing the necessary information to support the statistical simulations. These models simulated the climate to predict and identify the most effective strategies to increase performance and resilience. The iterative nature of this research provided further improvement. The ultimate goal is to develop robust tools



that can guide farmers to adapt their practices to a changing climate, thereby increasing productivity and reducing the negative impacts of climate change.

While still in the early stages of the process, Ryan recognizes the challenges ahead, including conducting experiments to obtain synthesis and draw upon existing literature internally but with the guidance of mentors and working with peers has seen these obstacles as opportunities for improvement. The anticipated impact of this research extends beyond academic contributions. By providing actionable strategies for adapting crops to changing climates, the findings have the potential to benefit local farming communities, improve food security, and promote sustainable agricultural practices. Ryan hopes to finalize methodologies and conduct experiments that will yield translatable data for real-world applications.



The YCC experience ignited a lifelong commitment to sustainability and collaboration. It underscored the importance of collective effort in addressing the climate crisis and empowered this young researcher to contribute meaningfully to the global dialogue.

'A Journey with YCC' by Ayush Kumar, Student, Sree Gokulam Medical College and Research Foundation, Kerala- An alumnus of 1st Edition of YCC

Ayush, a passionate environmental advocate, has always been drawn to the intricate challenges posed by climate change. His journey took a significant turn when he participated in the Youth Climate Conclave (YCC), an event that not only expanded his understanding of climate issues but also equipped him with the tools to drive impactful initiatives in his community. Ayush's experience at YCC was transformative. The event provided a comprehensive understanding of climate change, highlighting its far-reaching impacts. Engaging with experts and like-minded peers fuelled his enthusiasm and solidified his commitment to climate action.

Ayush began by communicating with his teachers and community leaders about the need for training sessions that focused on sustainable practices. He advocated for educational initiatives that would inform and empower his peers to engage with environmental issues meaningfully. This was the beginning of a grassroots movement to cultivate a climate-conscious culture in his school and community.



To kickstart this initiative, Ayush organized a special morning assembly themed on climate change, where he shared insights from YCC. The assembly served as a platform to ignite discussions about sustainability and the importance of collective action. In addition, he spearheaded several engaging activities, including plantation drives, poster-making competitions, and interactive sessions that provided practical skills and strategies for implementing sustainable practices in daily life.



Despite his enthusiasm, Ayush encountered several challenges during this process. Organizing large events with minimal funds posed logistical challenges, leading him to scale activities to fit available resources and collaborate with local organizations for support. Ayush's initiatives significantly transformed community attitudes towards environmental responsibility. The impact was evident in several measurable outcomes. More than 95% of teachers and students expressed their support for the plantation drives and environmental initiatives. Hundreds of students participated in the

activities, fostering a sense of ownership and responsibility towards environmental stewardship. Awareness campaigns also led to a noticeable reduction in energy consumption in local homes and schools, as families began adopting energy-efficient practices. A survey conducted post-events revealed that most participants planned to continue engaging in environmental activities, signalling a cultural shift towards sustainability.

With his transition to college, Ayush is excited to broaden his efforts in climate action. He aims to educate his fellow students about climate change and its impacts, utilizing campus platforms for outreach. He plans to connect with other

environmental organizations on campus to amplify their collective impact and share resources. Additionally, Ayush is exploring opportunities to embed sustainability practices into campus life and academic programmes, ensuring that the ethos of climate action is woven into everyday experiences. Ayush's journey through YCC has not only empowered him but has also ignited a movement within his community. His commitment to climate action continues to inspire those around him, demonstrating that even the smallest efforts can lead to significant change.

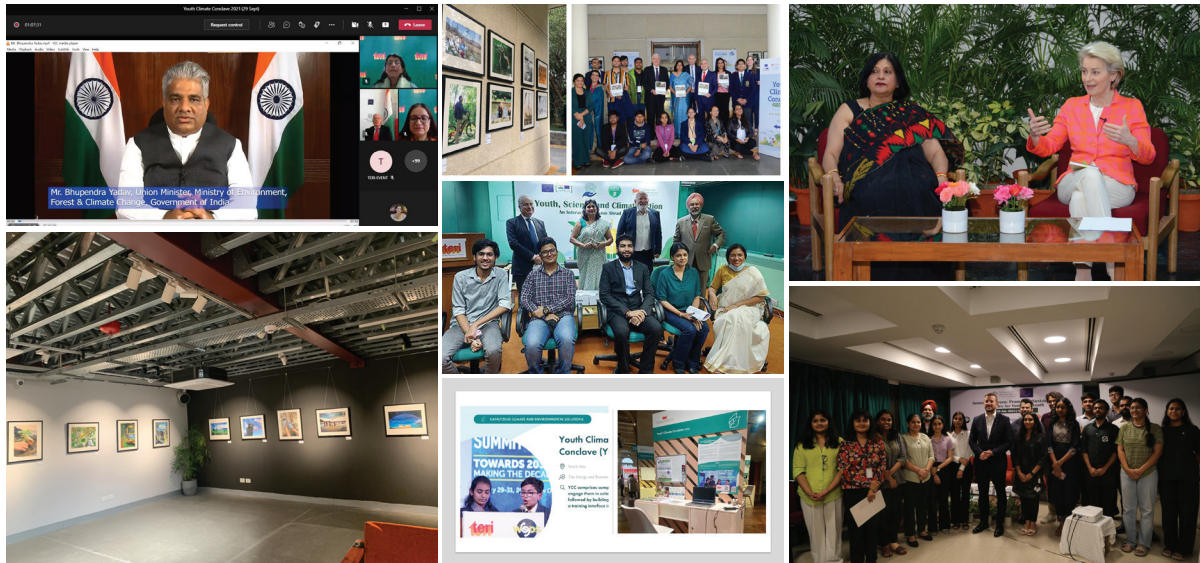
3. Way Forward



Youth Climate Conclave (YCC) envisions a dynamic, action-driven platform that empowers young climate leaders through sustained engagement, capacity building, and impactful collaborations. Moving beyond an annual event, YCC aims to establish a Youth Climate Alumni Network, fostering year-round mentorship, knowledge exchange, and grassroots action. Strengthening partnerships with global institutions, policymakers, and educational bodies will enhance outreach and advocacy, ensuring that youth voices influence climate policies. A structured capacity-building framework will equip participants with skills in climate science, green entrepreneurship, and innovation, preparing them for leadership roles in sustainability. Institutionalizing YCC through annual reports, integration with national and global climate agendas, and securing long-term funding will ensure its evolution into a sustainable movement. By fostering collaboration and innovation, YCC will continue to be a catalyst for youth-driven climate action, shaping a greener, more resilient future.

Snippets from earlier editions of YCC (2019– 2024)

From Left to Right: Organization of YCC Photography Exhibition at Italian Cultural Centre, Delhi (2023); Interaction with HE Mr Frans Timmermans, Executive Vice-President, European Commission (2023); Selection of YCC as one of the 70 projects showcased in the fifth edition of the Paris Peace Forum in Paris (2022); Interaction with HE Ms Ursula von der Leyen, President, European Commission (2022); Interaction with HE Mr Virginijus Sinkevičius, Commissioner for Environment, Oceans and Fisheries, European Commission (2023); HE Mr Bhupendra Yadav, Union Minister, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Government of India during YCC 2021; Organization of YCC Photography Exhibition at Museo Camera Centre for the Photographic Arts, Gurgaon (2023).





For participation and more details, please follow the link: <https://www.teriin.org/project/youth-climate-conclave>

Education for Youth Empowerment, Environment Education and Awareness Division, TERI,
6C, Darbari Seth Block, India Habitat Centre, Lodhi Road, New Delhi - 110003
Ph. No. +91 11 24682100 or 71102100, Email id: youthclimateconclaveedition5@gmail.com
Webpage: <https://www.teriin.org/project/youth-climate-conclave>