



# **GURUJI EDUCATION FOUNDATION**

## **Quarterly Report**

**January - March 2026**

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# ABOUT GEF

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Guruji Education Foundation (GEF) is a registered trust, which works with underprivileged students to enable their holistic education, and thus provide them with a more equitable access to opportunities and success. As part of its mission of “Education for All”, GEF provides support for holistic education of underprivileged students, based on the principles of:

- Inclusivity
- Quality over quantity
- Cycle of giving
- Customized career planning
- Holistic development
- Collaboration

GEF runs 2 broad flagship programs:

i) Holistic Higher Education (HHE), where high-potential college students from underprivileged sections are identified to catalyze their all-round development by providing them with resources that they may need. The resources could include interest-free loans (to be paid after they start earning), personal mentoring, career counselling and more

ii) Adolescent Development Program (ADP), which aims at enabling schools, especially those catering to underprivileged children, to provide holistic education spanning physical literacy, psychological strength, intellectual prowess, life skills, and entrepreneurial thinking

GEF accords special attention towards education of students from a distressed backgrounds including orphans, single parent families, and families impacted by cancer, covid etc. More than academic brilliance, the emphasis is on providing these students an education that is appropriate to their abilities and can help them in getting meaningful employment.

# THE QUARTER IN A NUTSHELL

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As we step into the new financial year 2026-27, we are pleased to share the Quarterly Report for the January - February - March 2026 quarter.

As reported in the Highlights in the next section, this has been a busy and eventful quarter - both in terms of activities carried out during the quarter, and also what we have been able to achieve. As GEF continues to grow, apart from the growing funding requirements, we are deeply cognizant of the need to work towards further strengthening our processes and systems, and also build the required human capacity. This is amply reflected in the Highlights - be it the Guidestar certification, or our collaboration with SVP, or the musical concert for fund raising.

The quarter also saw the Winter Scratch Day 2026 being held to mark the culmination of Winter Scratch Festival. And then of course, were the Annual Days across all major centres, which amply showcased our students' management and organisational skills, in addition to their creativity and talent.

We are marking the end of the financial year 2025-26, with 76 schools and institutions in our Adolescent Development Program (ADP) network, which is in line with our target of 75 for 2025-26. The count of students currently being supported under our Holistic Higher Education (HHE) program is 176, which is slightly short of our target of 200 for 2025-26.

Executive Committee  
**Guruji Education Foundation**

# HIGHLIGHTS

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## GEF is now Guidestar India Bronze Certified

Guidestar India (<https://www.guidestarindia.org>) is an organization that serves as a platform that connects non-profit organisations (NPOs) with donors and others interested in collaborating with NPOs. Guidestar follows a rigorous assessment model based on which it certifies NPOs at 5 levels - Bronze, Bronze+, Silver, Gold, and Platinum.

After due consideration to various factors, GEF had applied for the Foundation Level - Bronze Certification. We are pleased to share that after a thorough evaluation of our compliances and processes, GEF has been accorded the Foundation Level - Bronze Certification.



## GEF selected for support by Social Venture Partners, India

At the end of a detailed evaluation and due diligence exercise over the last 6+ months, Social Venture Partners (SVP), India has selected GEF as one of the 8 NGOs that will be supported by them over the next 3 years (2026 - 2029).

SVP India is an organization that provides mentoring and financial support to select NGOs to help them to access the best opportunities, and scale sustainably. It comprises 'partners' who are interested in getting involved with philanthropy hands-on, rather than only in a cheque writing capacity. More about SVP India at <https://www.svpindia.org>.



Over the course of the next 3 years, we plan to closely work with SVP on the broad goals of Scaling the organization, Process Improvement, Digitisation, and Manpower Reinforcement among others. While Dr. Lalita Deshpande will be leading the efforts from our end, SVP has identified the following highly experience professionals as the Lead Partners, who will be closely working with us on behalf of SVP:

- Kuldip Kaura – Senior Director at Everstone Capital Advisors, Ex-CEO & MD ABB, Vedanta Resources PLC, and ACC Ltd. Over 50 years experience
- Anand Sen – Managing Director, Tata International, President (Tata Quality Management & Tata Steel). Over 40 years at Tata Steel
- Pranav Parekh – Early retirement after a 15 year career in the financial services sector (Edelweiss, JP Morgan, Jefferies) to work in the social sector

# HIGHLIGHTS

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## GEF work presented at the Mastek Foundation Charity Partner Meetup

GEF recently had the opportunity to showcase the work done under the Mastek Foundation sponsored project for supporting the education of 12 students of our Holistic Higher Education (HHE) program. This was as a part of a 1-day meet-up of Mastek Foundation-sponsored NGOs, with the aim of celebrating the shared journeys, strengthening partnerships, and deepening collaboration.

GEF was represented at the event by Managing Committee member Mr. Thyagarajan Palani (Thyagu), HHE alumna Ms. Ankita Raut, and our Co-founder and Chairman, Dr. Pradeep Waychal. The presentation made by Thyagu, and Ankita's narration of her own journey as an HHE student and alumna, was highly appreciated. Many of the NGOs present expressed interest in inviting Ankita to speak to their own beneficiaries as a role-model to motivate them.

We are grateful to Mastek Foundation for their support, which was enabled this year as a result of sustained efforts of Mr. Sarang Sulakhe, Centre Head, GEF Pune.



*Thyagu and Ankita presenting to the deeply engrossed audience*

*Ankita, Pradeep, and Thyagu with Mr. Ashank Desai, Principal Founder & Chairman, Mastek, and Mr. Jalander Satpute, Lead CSR, Mastek Foundation*



# HIGHLIGHTS

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## A Grand Musical Extravaganza for fund-raising

GEF organised a charity musical show on the 10<sup>th</sup> of January 2026 at the Fine Arts Society, Chembur, with the objective of raising funds to support our growing scale of activities under both - Adolescent Development Program (ADP) at the school level, and Holistic Higher Education (HHE) at the college level.

The show, themed “Bollywood Retro”, was headlined by renowned playback singer Poornima (Sushma Shrestha), along with a line-up of other popular artists and musicians who kept the audience enthralled for over 3 hours. A video created by our distinguished supporter Mr. Anil Somaiya, highlighting GEF work and impact was also played on this occasion. The highlight of the evening was an extremely touching and inspiring speech by GEF alumna Ms. Amruta Raut, who spoke of her own experiences as a GEF student, and the difference that it had made to her life. A souvenir was also published to commemorate the event.

The entire planning and execution of the program was managed by our senior Managing Committee Member, Mr. Thyagarajan Palani (Thyagu), ably supported by the entire GEF team of volunteers, students and alumni. As a first of its kind initiative for us, the experience and learnings from this event have provided us with a framework and confidence to organize more such fund-raising events in future.



*GEF alumna Amruta Raut speaks about her inspiring journey*



*The singers in full flow during the concert*

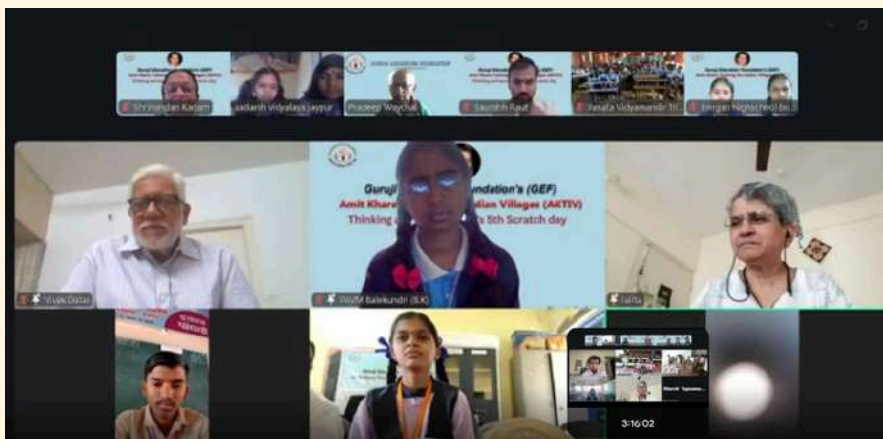
# HIGHLIGHTS

## Winter Scratch Day 2026

With over 1300 students participating online, the Winter SCRATCH Festival held by Guruji Education Foundation (GEF) was proof of the Foundation's success in implementation of technology driven learning and problem solving among school children

Prof. Vivek Datar, Nuclear Physicist, former Raja Ramanna Fellow and former Project Director, INO, alongwith Mr. Prashant Nori, an alumnus of the prestigious Harvard Graduate School of Education, Creative Head at Wayground, Ed-tech innovator and former team member of SCRATCH Foundation were the chief guests for the online event held on February 14, 2026.

Appreciating the efforts of rural and semi-urban schools in adopting digital learning platforms, Prof. Datar encouraged students to use SCRATCH not only as a coding platform but also as a tool for creative thinking and structured problem solving. He spoke about how creativity combined with logic developed confidence in young learners and emphasised the importance of platforms like SCRATCH which empower students to become creators, and not just consumers of technology.



*Prof. Vivek Datar answering questions from the ever curious school students*

Mr. Prashant Nori motivated the students to experiment, iterate and improve upon their ideas in the various projects they developed using SCRATCH. He explained how platforms like Wayground support learner-centric, interactive education and encouraged students to think beyond marks and focus on problem-solving. Building products that truly serve students was another challenge, he added.



*Mr Prasanth Nori sharing his insights with the students*

# HIGHLIGHTS

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## Winter Scratch Day 2026 (Contd.)

Four competitions were held as part of the festival namely: The SCRATCH projects, Hackathon, Quiz and Essay writing. A panel discussion in which the finalists of the Essay competition participated was the highlight of the online event. The shortlisted projects that were built using SCRATCH platform were also screened during the event to encourage and motivate the students.

The entire programme was anchored by Ms Anvita Ghadge, Ms Nandini Ghadge –both students of Borgaon High School, Borgaon (Satara); Ms Aradhya Nikam and Ms Divya Pawar –both students of Adarsh Vidyalaya, Jaipur (Satara). GEF student Ms Krishnamai Thite introduced GEF. GEF student Pandurang Jadhav from Shri Guru Gobind Singhji Institute of Engineering & Technology (SGGSIE&T), Nanded, managed the live streaming and recording of the entire session. GEF supporters Mrs Kavita Kadam and Mrs Vijayanti Deogekar played an active role in essay evaluation, interviews and panel discussions.

The entire programme which was conceived and managed by our Scratch Program Coordinator, Mr. Saurabh Raut, was an excellent example of creativity, technology, problem-solving and team-work all put together.

## **LIST OF WINTER SCRATCH DAY 2026 PRIZE WINNERS**

### SCRATCH PROJECTS

#### Junior Category

1st : Kai. Y. D. Patil Madhyamik Vidyalaya, Tandulwadi (Jalgaon), Team: Soham A. Patil, Lalit D. Patil, Dharshana D. Patil

2<sup>nd</sup>: PMS RCSM Vidyalaya, Rabale (Navi Mumbai), Team: Shreyas L. Suryavanshi, Pratik V. Annapure, Yash B. Lad

3<sup>rd</sup> : PMS RCSM Vidyalaya, Rabale (Navi Mumbai), Team: Tanushree N. Taware, Shraddha R. Gaikwad, Sambodhi D. Gajghate

Innovative Approach Award: Kai. Y. D. Patil Madhyamik Vidyalaya, Tandulwadi (Jalgaon), Team: Rita B. Patil, Samruddhi Y. Hire, Vaishnavi R. Patil

# HIGHLIGHTS

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## Winter Scratch Day 2026 (Contd.)

### SCRATCH PROJECTS

#### Senior Category

1<sup>st</sup> : Pragat Vidya Mandir, Ramgad (Sindhudurg), Team: Abha J. Hazare, Puja S. Ghagh, Gauri N. Ghadigaonkar

2<sup>nd</sup> : Borgaon High School, Borgaon (Satara), Team: Anvita R. Ghadge, Nandini G. Ghadge, Sakshi P. Adagale

3<sup>rd</sup> : Pant Maharaj Adarsh Vidya Mandir, Balekundri (Belgaum), Karnataka, Team: Shashank Mirajkar, Shivanand Kittur, Mamata Pujari

Best Idea Award: SSGMMS, Vadakoor (Thanjavur), Tamil Nadu, Team: Lakshanya R J, Kaashini A, Prethisha S, Oviyan S

Best Storytelling Award: Tulshidas Jadhav Prashala, Vairag (Solapur), Team: Santosh D. Satpute, Pranav V. Deshmukh, Yash B. Aware, Shritej B. Shinde, Akash R. Devkar

#### Super Senior Category

1<sup>st</sup> : Pragat Vidya Mandir, Ramgad (Sindhudurg), Team: Nupur L. Tari, Bhakti V. Hatle, Manavi V. Ghadigaonkar

2<sup>nd</sup> : Kai. Y. D. Patil Madhyamik Vidyalaya, Tandulwadi (Jalgaon), Team: Nandini R. Mahajan, Akshara A. Patil, Komal A. Patil

3<sup>rd</sup> : Sri Sri Gnan Mandir Matriculation School, Vadakkur (Thanjavur), Tamil Nadu, Team: Arihanghini K, Sharvesh V A, Sri Vartha C, Varunavi V, Aadhavan V

### ESSAY WRITING

#### Junior Category

1<sup>st</sup> : Samruddhi S. Kapase, Tulsidas Jadhav Prashala, Vairag (Solapur)

2<sup>nd</sup>: Khushi M. Karangutkar, Shivdav Madhyamik Vidyalaya, Shivdav (Sindhudurg)

3<sup>rd</sup> (Joint): P. Samivarsh, Sri Sri Gnan Mandir Matriculation, Vadakkur (Thanjavur), Tamil Nadu) AND Deekshitha, Shri Subramanyeshwar Study Center, Chintamani, Karnataka

#### Senior Category

1<sup>st</sup> : Bhakti N. Parab, Pragat Vidyamandir, Ramgad (Sindhudurg)

2<sup>nd</sup> : Sonal Salunkhe, Pant Maharaj Adarsh Vidya Mandir, Balekundri (Belgaum), Karnataka

3<sup>rd</sup> : Soham Jadhav, Madhyamik Vidyalay, Vijaynagar, Kapurgaon (Sangli)

# HIGHLIGHTS

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## Winter Scratch Day 2026 (Contd.)

### QUIZ

#### Junior Category

1st : Z.P. School, Devwadi (Sangli), Team: Amruta V. Khot, Swarali S. Khot

2<sup>nd</sup> : Shri Subramanyeshwar Study Center, Chintamani, Karnataka, Team: Deekshitha, Chetan, Malavika

3<sup>rd</sup> : Z.P. School Najik Pangari (Jalna): Dhanush Pawar, Vaishnavi Pawar, Aradhya Pawar

#### Senior Category

1<sup>st</sup> : Jalgaon Highschool, Jalgaon: Anushka K. Jadhav, Kanksha K. Jadhav

2<sup>nd</sup> : Z.P. School Najik Pangari (Jalna): Rupali Pawar, Sarthak Raut, Kalyani Pawar

3<sup>rd</sup> : Shri Vitthalrao Govindrao Nikam (Guruji) Madhyamik School, Ambheri (Satara): Shivraj D. Roman, Bhagyshri

### HACKATHON

#### Junior Category

1st : Not awarded – as no team could fully complete the solution

2<sup>nd</sup> : Sri Sri Gnan Mandir Matriculation School, Vadakkur (Thanjavur), Tamil Nadu: Vidhya M, Prethisha S, Devana

3<sup>rd</sup> : PM Shri Shahu Maharaj Vidhyalaya, Rabale (Navi Mumbai): Yash B. Lad, Avishkar D. Kakanate, Sambodhi D. Gajaghate

#### Senior Category

1st : Not awarded – as no team could fully complete the solution

2<sup>nd</sup> : Pragat Vidya Mandir, Ramgad (Sindhudurg): Vishvajit N. Jikamade, Gandhav U. Gaonkar, Puja S. Ghagh, Gauri N. Ghadigaokar

3<sup>rd</sup> : Kai Yadav Dagadu Patil Madhyamik Vidyalaya, Tandulwadi (Jalgaon): Akshara A. Patil, Nandini R. Mahajan, Komal A. Patil

# HIGHLIGHTS

## Felicitation by Thane Vaibhav

Thane Vaibhav, a leading local Marathi newspaper, had run a series “Sewa Connect” last year, which featured NGOs doing commendable work and making a difference. GEF was one among the 50 featured NGOs.

As part of their Golden Jubilee celebrations (having recently completed 50 years of publication), Thane Vaibhav had organised a function to publicly felicitate all the NGOs featured in “Sewa Connect”.



*GEF team - Mr. Nandoo Hatakar (3<sup>rd</sup> from L), Mr. Sunil Patil (4<sup>th</sup> from L), Mr. Sanket Boyar (5<sup>th</sup> from R), Ms. Nishtha Dalvi (4<sup>th</sup> from R), Mrs. Sandhya Waychal (3<sup>rd</sup> from R) - receiving the commemorative plaque. Dr. Khushbu Taori-Modi (extreme R), who researched and wrote about GEF, along with other dignitaries from Thane Vaibhav are also seen in the photo*

## TAP Charity Laptop Program

TAP Charity has been a valued supporter of Guruji Education Foundation in multiple ways for many years. They have been providing financial support as well as mentoring and teaching support, in line with their strategy of providing time, treasure, and talent to different developmental organisations.

This year they added another leaf by providing 13 high-end laptops and many phones which are now being used by our beneficiaries. The initiative was spearheaded Mr Prasana Iyengar, Mr Kunal Shah, and Mr. Sachin Thatte from TAP and Mr Milind Nikte and Mr Richard Washington from GEF. Ms. Arpita Desai coordinated the initiative.

# HIGHLIGHTS

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## Thane + Mumbai Annual Day 2026

GEF Mumbai & Thane Centre celebrated its Annual Day on the 11<sup>th</sup> of January 2026 at IIT-Bombay, with 75+ attendees participating in the event.

Mr. Dilip Sarangdhar, Technical Director, SeaTech Solutions, and Mr. Gopesh Modi, Founder & Chairman, Nvest Solution, were the Chief Guests for the event, and shared their personal & professional experiences with the students. Mr. Sarangdhar underlined the importance of being a good human being for leading a fulfilling life and achieving professional success. He spoke about how genuine care and concern helps build authentic connections that are critical for both personal and professional success. He also provided interesting insights into the novel field of naval architecture, and spoke about recent innovations in the field.



*Mr. Dilip Sarangdhar being interviewed by GEF students, Nishtha Dalvi and Soumya Shukla*

Mr. Gopesh Modi spoke about being resilient in one's professional life, and the importance of having conviction in one's decisions in the face of setbacks. He encouraged students to take up entrepreneurship, by speaking about his life experiences and his decision-making philosophy as an entrepreneur.

A Yoga session conducted by Ms. Sadhana Patil, a talk by GEF alumna Amruta Raut on her GEF experience, a song performance by Hemant & Shraddha Golatkar, and engaging games conducted by Mr. Sunil Dodeja, were among the highlights of the day.

# HIGHLIGHTS

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Thane + Mumbai Annual Day 2026 (Contd.)



*Mr. Gopesh Modi being welcomed by GEF students Atul Kshirsagar and Samiksha Sadaye*

As usual, the Annual Day was completely planned and organized by a team of GEF students and alumni, including Praful Tembe, Neeraj Kumbhar, Rajat Pujari, Shruti Malankar, Nishtha Dalvi, Soumya Shukla, Sanika Aeer, Rekha Arde, Shravani Jadhav, Atul Kshirsagar, Samiksha Sadaye, and Arpana Jadhav, under the able guidance of mentors Ms. Kavita Kadam, Dr. Vijayanti Deogekar and Dr. Lalita Deshpande.

The Annual Day provided a great platform for the students to network with other students and alumni, and also with the community of GEF mentors and supporters. It was also an opportunity for the students to showcase their talents, and draw inspiration from distinguished personalities.

# HIGHLIGHTS

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## Nagpur + Wardha Annual Day 2026

GEF - Nagpur and Wardha Centre celebrated its Annual Day on 1 February 2026 at Dnyanda School, Satefal, near Hinganghat. The event brought together nearly 200 school students, GEF students, parents, mentors, alumni, and supporters, reflecting a year of learning, growth, achievements, and strong community bonding.

The program began with an icebreaking and networking activity conducted by Shivsharan Mashalkar, a GEF student, which served as an engaging warm-up before the formal proceedings. This was followed by a dignified lamp-lighting ceremony symbolizing hope, knowledge and new beginnings. The soulful GEF welcome and theme song, performed by GEF and Dnyanda students, beautifully captured the foundation's journey. Juhi Barai (GEF student) presented an introduction to GEF, highlighting its mission, initiatives, and impact on students' lives.

A key highlight of the event was the interview of the Chief Guest, Shri Madhukar Uplenchwar, Founder of Vidyarthi Sahayak Samiti (VSS), Varora, conducted by GEF students Sakshi Pawar and Rutvik Ladhi. Shri Uplenchwar emphasized the importance of discipline, value-based education, and social responsibility. The first half also featured a theme dance on environmental awareness by Vidyarthi Sahayak Samiti students. Another inspiring moment was the interaction with Niraj Kumbhar and Rajat Pujari, GEF alumni from Mumbai, who shared their professional journey and long association with GEF.



*Sakshi Pawar and Rutvik Ladhi conducting the interactive session with Shri Madhukar Uplenchwar, Founder, VSS, Varora (Centre), along with Shri Lucky Khilosiya, Jt Secretary, VSS, Varora (2nd from left) and Shri Gajanan Lonbale, Secretary, VSS, Varora (extreme left)*

# HIGHLIGHTS

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## Nagpur + Wardha Annual Day 2026 (Contd.)

The second half began with a traditional dance on Chhatrapati Sambhaji Maharaj, setting a patriotic tone. A special address was delivered by Shri Harish Ethape, President of Adhyayan Bharti, Vidarbha, and Director of Children Theatre Academy, Vidarbha. In an interactive session conducted by GEF students Anuja Vaidya and Komal Hore, Shri Ethape offered valuable guidance on education, personality development, and social awareness. This was followed by a graceful poetic presentation by Rupal Walchale, and a talk on Social media by Parth Sharma, both GEF students. An interesting guessing game conducted by Rutvik Ladhi, with active participation of all students, brought forth the exceptional talent of GEF students. In a motivating and emotionally moving session, Swanand Buwa (GEF alumnus) and Mohini Pachrutkar (GEF student) shared their experiences, which further enriched the event. This was followed by a vibrant dance performance by Komal Hore. Finally Dr. Pradeep Waychal Sir, who could not attend the event in person, joined online to address the students. The event concluded with a vote of thanks and a sense of fulfillment, leaving everyone with cherished memories and renewed motivation.



*A scene from the theme dance on Chhatrapati Sambhaji Maharaj*

The successful execution of the Annual Day was made possible by the dedicated efforts of all GEF students, alumni, volunteers and supporters. Special mention for the efforts of the event anchors - Shital Yekhande, Parth Sharma, Shweta Torotkar, and Kiran Dhote, and GEF alumni - Shubham Lingayat, Harshal There, Swanand Buwa, Rajat Pujari, and Niraj Kumbhar. Special thanks also due to the management and staff of Dnyanda School, especially Shri Lucky Khilosiya, who made this event possible. And finally sincere gratitude to our mentors Shri Mohan Varadpande Sir, Vinod Thakre Sir, and Dr. Lalita Deshpande ma'am for their unwavering guidance .

# HIGHLIGHTS

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## Nagpur + Wardha Annual Day 2026 (Contd.)



*The team behind the event, with the guests*

## Pune Annual Day 2026

Cyber Security, Social Welfare, and Artificial intelligence were the highlights of the GEF Pune Annual Day, held on February 8, 2026. The inspiring event was held at the Anantrao Pawar College of Engineering, Shahu Campus, Parvati, Pune and was attended by over 75 GEF supporters, mentors, alumni and students. Dr. Sanjay Shinde, Retired IGP, Mrs Veena Gokhale, Social worker, and Mr Shantnoo Patil, Head of Programme Management KOKO Networks, were the chief guests who graced the occasion.

Dr. Sanjay Shinde shared his journey from the time he joined the police forces, his experiences of dealing with organised crime during his Mumbai posting and most importantly he spoke about the threat of cyber frauds. He spoke about how citizens could stay alert and prevent becoming victims of such crimes. He also addressed the queries posed by the audience regarding cyber security.

# HIGHLIGHTS

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Pune Annual Day 2026 (Contd.)



*Dr. Sanjay Shinde, retired IGP makes a point during his interaction which was moderated by GEF students Prachi Tari and Janhavi Botalji*

Mrs. Veena Gokhale, who is known for her philanthropic work, spoke about her role as a coordinator between deserving social organisations and prospective donors for the upliftment of the society. Her experiences of overcoming her personal setbacks to pursue social work were particularly inspiring.



*GEF students Janhavi Gundawar and Akanksha Karve interviewing Ms. Veena Gokhale*

# HIGHLIGHTS

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## Pune Annual Day 2026 (Contd.)

Mr. Shantanoo Patil held an interesting interactive session on Artificial Intelligence which was well received by the audience.



*Mr. Shantanoo Patil during his session on Artificial Intelligence*

A dance performance by Ms. Shravani Deshmukh and a Quiz conducted by Mr. Pranav Nikam and Mr. Niraj Kumbhar were other interesting events of the day. The Annual Day event was effectively anchored by Ms. Vaibhavi Bavkar, Mr. Sandesh Tayade, Mr. Vishal Nikam, and Mr. Pratik Khot.

The success of the Annual Day was a combined effort of the GEF supporters, alumni and students. Mr. Avinash Surve, Ms. Jyoti Sulakhe, Mr. Sarang Sulakhe and Mr Saurabh Raut were the mentors who guided the students in organising the programme. Mr. Pranav Nikam and Ms. Sakshi Sabnis were the heads of the student management team. Mr. Niraj Kumbhar, Ms. Gayatri Jadhav and Mr. Rajat Pujari were actively involved in the alumni management. Student Ms. Siddhi Manjrekar and alumnus Ms Dhanashri Bhoavar were the school student coordinators. The entire photography for the event was done by GEF alumnus Ms. Gayatri Phatak.

# HIGHLIGHTS

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## Nanded Annual Day 2026

“Failures come along and make you stronger as you move forward on your path to success,” these motivational words were spoken by Mr. Shashanth Gowda, Indian Police Service probationer, Nanded, at the Annual Day held on March 7, 2026. The purpose of the GEF annual days is to provide motivation and inspiration to the beneficiaries so that they are rightly guided on their career paths.

Alongwith Mr. Shashanth Gowda, Dr. Vishwadhar Deshmukh, Professor of Marathi at Yashwant Mahavidyalaya, Nanded, and Mr. Pralobh Kulkarni, Principal of Zilla Parishad School, Pennur were the chief guests. The interaction with the chief guests was interestingly conducted by the students who interviewed the guests who shared their experiences and learnings.

Mr. Shashanth Gowda shared his journey which included instances of conquering failures, before entering the Indian Police Service. He also informed about the advancement in his field and the use of technology in improving work efficiency. Dr. Vishwadhar Deshmukh, who has completed his Ph.D in Comparative Literature/Translation Studies/ Adaptation Studies spoke about the teachings of Lord Buddha. He highlighted the difference between a Guru and the modern, ‘Sir’. He also shared many examples of successful people and their journeys.



*GEF students Omkar Rasal and Shital Bhadre welcoming Shri Shashanth Gowda*

Prof. Pralobh Kulkarni also spoke about his experiences and also about the importance of technology in shaping the development of the students. He also explained the role of GEF and the SCRATCH programme in the holistic development of students.

# HIGHLIGHTS

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## Nanded Annual Day 2026 (Contd.)

The programme was interspersed with several other interesting events such as the Power Point Presentation on GEF by Priti Sanghai, Poetry recitation by Tanvi Pawase, Ice-breaking and Networking activities conducted by GEF students Dnyaneshwar Haral, Rushikesh Deshmukh, and Ram Shrikanthe.

Krushna Bhule and Nikita Bhavar introduced the guests. Omkar Rasal and Shital Bhadre interviewed Mr Shashanth Gowda, while Aliya Sheikh and Sujata Chavan interviewed Mr. Pralobh Kulkarni. Interesting games were conducted by Dimple Mangrulkar, Shaurya Deshmukh, and Ayush Kadale. The entire programme was effectively anchored by Ms. Diksha Vhadade and Ms. Durga Khire.



*One for keeps ... a group photo of the participants and organizers with GEF mentors, chief guests, and dignitaries from SGGSI & T*

GEF students and alumni who played a major role in the organisation and successful execution of the Annual Day included Ritesh Gonde, Bhakti Suryawanshi, Shreya Nandgaonkar, Harish Wakde, Vaibhav Chavan, Amit Adsul, Ram Shrikanthe, Digambar Waghlikar, Nishikant Kamble, Rajat Pujari, and Niraj Kumbhar.

Dr. Lalita Deshpande and Mr. Dilip Chhatre provided constant support, mentorship and encouragement to the students in putting forward an excellent show.

# HIGHLIGHTS

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## Tuljapur Annual Day 2026

Guruji Education Foundation, Tuljapur held its Annual Event on 18th January 2026 at the Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), Tuljapur, with enthusiastic participation from students of TISS, students and teachers from Mittr Vidyalyay, faculty members, and supporters of the foundation. Prof. Ramesh Jare, Former Campus Director and Dean of TISS, and Mr. Yuraj Nale, a Marathwada historian, were the Chief Guests for the event.

In his inspiring interview which was conducted by Payal Tembhurnikar and Prashant Londhe, Prof. Ramesh Jare, shared his life story of childhood struggles, and the many challenges thereafter. He explained how education and hard work helped him become the Campus Director and later the Ex-Director of TISS, and very impactfully underlined the importance of patience, effort, and dedication.



*Prof. Ramesh Jare shares his life story in discussion with our interviewers Payal Tembhurnikar and Pankaj Londhe*

Mr. Yuraj Nale spoke about his educational journey, love for reading, writings on the Marathwada Liberation Movement, his acceptance of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's thoughts, his work related to historical heritage, and his methods of stress management. This interview was conducted by Mayur Devpare and Anjali Waghchoure.

# HIGHLIGHTS

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## Tuljapur Annual Day 2026 (Contd.)



*Mr. Yuvraj Nale being interviewed by Mayur Devpare and Anjali Waghcours*

TISS counsellor Ms. Sumita Bhadrige conducted a special session themed “New Year Reflection: Group Artwork”, where the students reflected on the previous year and expressed what they wanted to leave behind, what they wanted to keep, and what they wished to grow in the new year through drawings and words. The students also participated in a creative activity “Our Picture, Our Dream”, where they drew their dreams and future goals. These activities provided a great platform for the students to display their imagination and creativity with confidence.



*Creativity in action! A view of the participants deeply immersed in the activity*

# HIGHLIGHTS

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## Tuljapur Annual Day 2026 (Contd.)

Other highlights of the day included an enthusiastic and energetic dance performance by students from Mitr Vidyalyay, a song on Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj by Tanvi Satpute, and a dance set to old Marathi songs by the TISS students.

Starting with a joyful dance performance by Omprakash Patel, a few ice-breaking and networking activities, Saraswati Pujan, GEF theme song, GEF introduction by Krishnamai Thite, games conducted by Prashant Londhe, to the closing of the event with Pasaydan and a Vote of Thanks - the whole day was full of learning, joy, creativity, and inspiration. The event, very ably anchored by Payal Latelwar and Omprakash Patel, helped students build confidence, understand life values, and connect with people from different backgrounds.

Thanks to the combined efforts of everyone involved, the Tuljapur Annual Day was memorable, inspiring, and a grand success. The well-organized program was entirely planned and managed by the students, with guidance from Nishikant Kamble, Dr. Lalita Deshpande, and GEF alumni Niraj Kumbhar and Rajat Pujari.



*A group photo to keep the memories alive*

# HIGHLIGHTS

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## Sambhajinagar Annual Day 2026

GEF Sambhajinagar Annual Day held at Government College of Engineering, Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar on 28 March 2026 was a huge success, and a highly enriching and memorable experience for all who attended.

Mr. Ankush Nakhate, State Tax Officer and Mr. Nitin Kousadikar, Retired ACP, were the Chief Guests for the event. Mr. Bhagwan Sadawarte, who runs “Bina Chhatachi Shaala” (a school without a roof) for street children, and children of daily wage labourers, had also been invited as a Chief Guest, but had to unfortunately leave due to an emergency.

In his interview conducted by Akshara And Nandini Mahajan from our Tandulwadi school, Mr. Nakhate highlighted the importance of discipline in staying focused on ones goals, managing time effectively, and achieving success in life. Mr. Nitin Kousadikar’s interview was conducted by Sarthak Thakare and Ganeshwari Dholke. He spoke about how staying calm and cool in life helps in making better decisions and handling challenges effectively.



*Mr. Nitin Kousadikar, Retired ACP, being welcomed by Ganeshwari Dholke*



*Mr. Ankush Nakhate, State Tax Officer, addressing the audience*

The day started with a welcome song by Gauri Ingale, networking activities conducted by Shravani Sarode, and an introduction to GEF by Renuka Kachre. Among the highlights of the day were a musical performance by Amar Somvanshi and Gauri Ingale, both music students, who happen to be visually impaired, and a Ganesh vandana dance performed by Komal Patil, a school student from Tandulwadi. A zumba dance session was conducted by Bhagyashree Bahirat, Shravani Sarode and students from our Tandulwadi school.

# HIGHLIGHTS

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## Sambhajinagar Annual Day 2026 (Contd.)

Prem Petkar, Shravani Sarode, and Sujay Kadve shared their experiences of practising Yoga. Shravani Sarode, Sarthak Thakre, and Pranav Malave also conducted some very interesting games that kept the participants charged through the day. The day ended with Pasayadan sung by Gauri Ingale. GEF students Sujay Kadve, Shubhangi Bobade, and Pranav Malave were the anchors who kept everyone engaged throughout the event.

The event was thoughtfully planned and well executed entirely by the students, with mentorship and support from Manish Burande, Vaibhav Bansode, Niraj Kumbhar, Rajat Pujari, Nishikant Kamble, Kavita Kadam, Dr. Lalita Deshpande, and Dr. Dilip Bhawe. Thanks are also due to Swapnil Nikam and Ghanshyam Varade who enabled the participation of Tandulwadi School students.

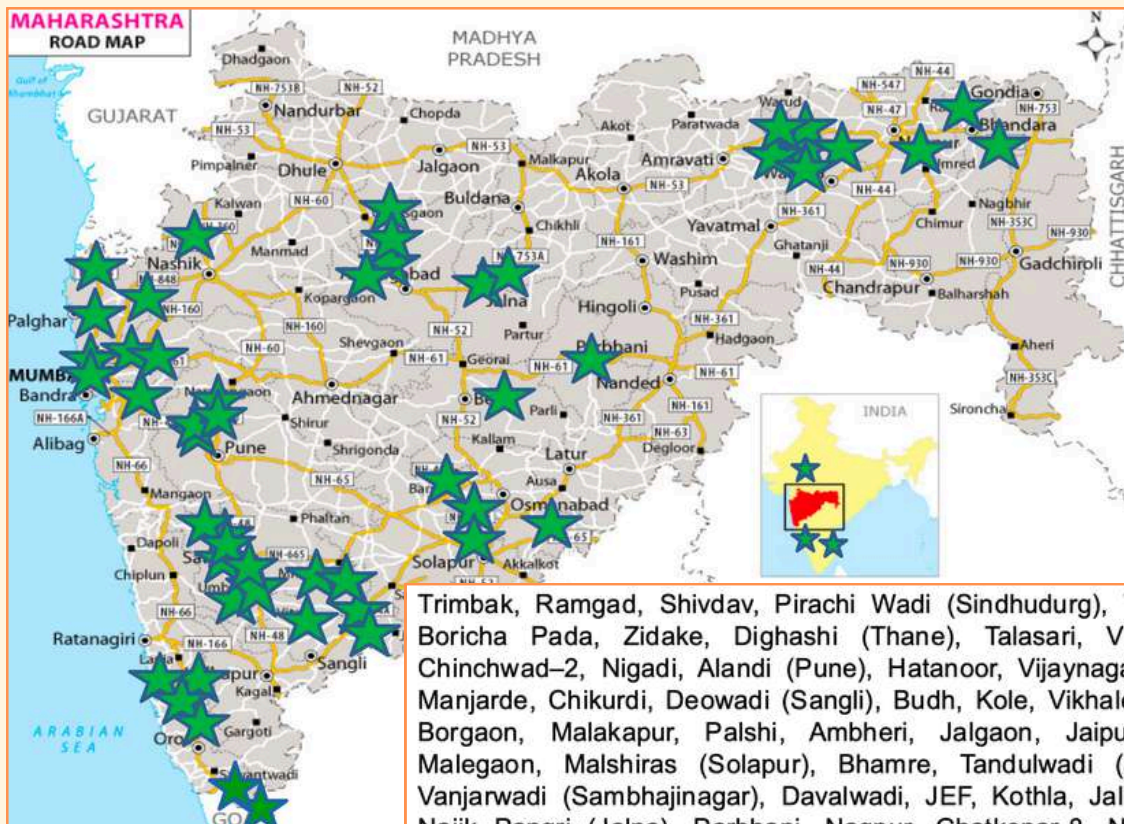


*A group photo of the participants and organizers with the dignitaries*

# UPDATES

## Adolescent Development Program

### Growing Spread



Trimbak, Ramgad, Shivdav, Pirachi Wadi (Sindhudurg), Thane, Nerul, Airoli, Boricha Pada, Zidake, Dighashi (Thane), Talasari, Vikramgad (Palghar), Chinchwad-2, Nigadi, Alandi (Pune), Hatanoor, Vijaynagar, Nagaj, Ghorpadi, Manjarde, Chikurdi, Deowadi (Sangli), Budh, Kole, Vikhale, Chilewadi, Nigadi, Borgaon, Malakapur, Palshi, Ambheri, Jalgaon, Jaipur (Satara), Vairag, Malegaon, Malshiras (Solapur), Bhamre, Tandulwadi (Jalgaon), Saigavan, Vanjarwadi (Sambhajinagar), Daivalwadi, JEF, Kothla, Jalna, Kharpudi, Karla, Najik Pangri (Jalna), Parbhani, Nagpur, Ghatkopar-8, Navnirman (Mumbai), Bhandara, Mohadi (Bhandara), Satefal, Vadner-2, Waldhur, Sasti, Wardha (Wardha), Murud Janjira (Raigad), Penur (Nanded), Hiwali (Nashik), Osmanabad, Lepa (MP), P Balekundri, SSF-Chikkaballapur (Karnataka), Vadakkur (Tamil Nadu), Priol, BKA-Talauli (Goa)

Over **12000 beneficiaries** across **76 schools** (including **51 rural**)

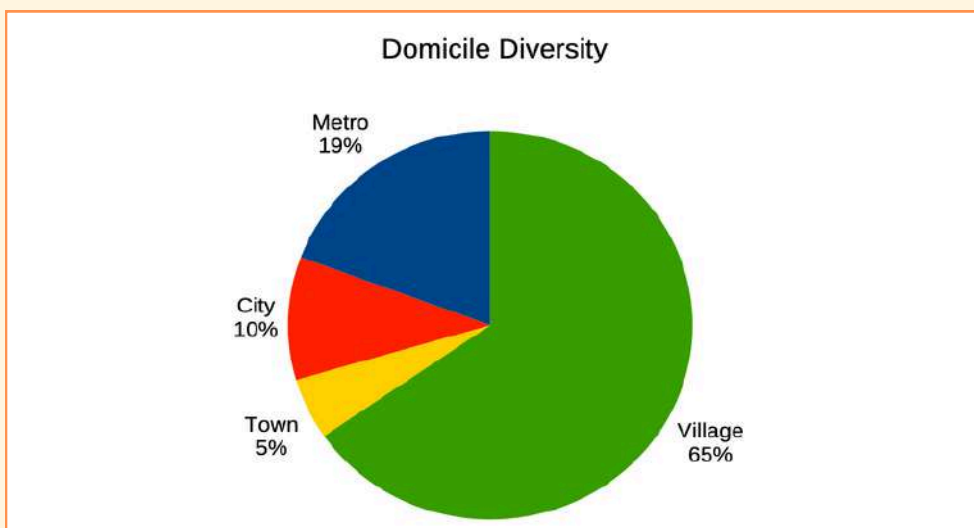
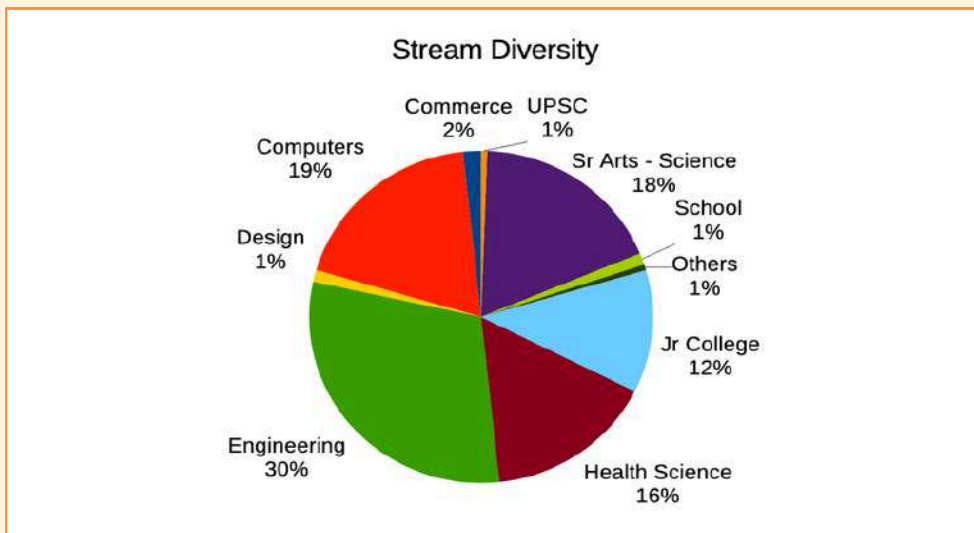
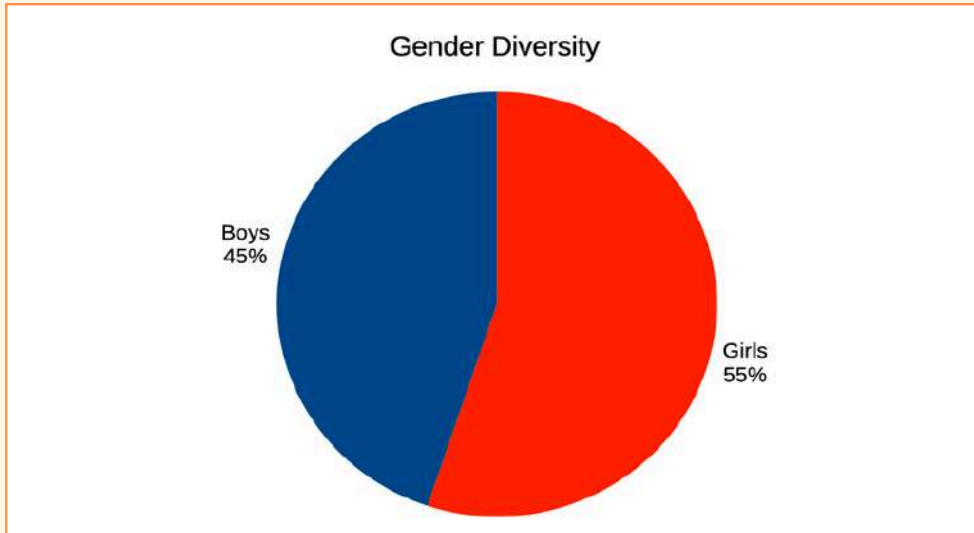
"Education is the foundation upon which we build our future, shaping minds and molding destinies."

~ Anonymous

# UPDATES

## Holistic Higher Education

### Catering to a diverse demographic spread





# STUDENT STARS



**Amar Somvanshi** a student of BA (Music) at New Arts and Science College, Ahmadnagar, won the 1<sup>st</sup> prize at the Maharashtra state level essay-writing and braille-reading competitions organized by the National Federation of the Blind, Maharashtra (NFBM). He also participated in the poetry-reading competition organized by NFBM.

Amar has also passed his Tabla, Harmonium, and Vocal exams securing A grades.

**Sakshi Sabnis**, was a part of the ILS Law College team that won the 12<sup>th</sup> Kashibai Navale National Moot Court Competition, organised by Sinhgad Law College, Pune.

Sakshi is currently in the 3<sup>rd</sup> year of her Integrated BA+LLB program at ILS Law College, Pune.

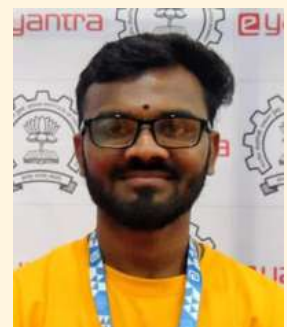


**Shital Yekhande** was a member of the team BlueBytes that presented an IoT-based Urban Circular Groundwater Monitoring System, and secured the runners-up position at the India-Israel Hackathon organized by GH Rasoni University, Saikheda with support from the Israeli Consulate, Mumbai.

Shital is a 2<sup>nd</sup> year student of BTech (Cybersecurity) at GH Rasoni College of Engineering, Nagpur.

**Anuj Tale** was the Team Lead of a 3-member team which stood 5<sup>th</sup> in the eYantra Robotics Competition (EYRC) held at IIT-Bombay. With 544 teams, including from IITs and NITs, participating from all over India, it is a highly creditable achievement.

Anuj is currently a 2<sup>nd</sup> Year BTech (Electronics & Telecommunication) student at Shri Guru Gobing Singhji Institute of Engineering & Technology (SGGSIE&T), Nanded,





# STUDENT STARS



**Tanmay Pradhan**, Final Year student of Electrical Engineering at Shri Guru Gobind Singhji Institute of Engineering & Technology (SGGSIT&E), Nanded, has secured placement as a Graduate Engineer Trainee at Toyo Engineering India.

**Pranav Malave** a 2<sup>nd</sup> Year BTech (Mech Egg) student at Government College of Engineering, Chh. Sambhajinagar, was part of a 2-member team which was placed 1<sup>st</sup> in Mecathon, a project modeling event at a national-level Tech Fest organized by his college. He was also a member of teams that stood 3<sup>rd</sup> in the CAD Clash and Bridge- It events at the same Tech Fest. His teams also won the 1<sup>st</sup> prize in Shobhayatra, a college-level project modeling completion, and Mech O Quiz, a department-level quiz competition. Pranav was also the runners-up in Chess at the college-level.



**Harish Wakde** a 2<sup>nd</sup> Year BTech (Instrumentation) student at Shri Guru Gobind Singhji Institute of Engineering & Technology (SGGSIE&T), Nanded, was a member of the college team which won the Volleyball tournament organized as a part of Zenith-2026, a Maharashtra state level Inter-collegiate sports event organized by SGGSIE&T.



# ALUMNI



# STARS



**Kalyan Garde**, has successfully completed his MA (Education) from Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai.

Kalyan also presented a paper titled “Nurturing Sankalpshakti i.e., Power of Resolution through Varsharambha and Varshant Upasana”, at the National Conference on “Integrating Indigenous Knowledge System with Modern Education: An Interdisciplinary perspective”, organized by Goa University.

As a GEF student, Kalyan had earlier done his BE (Mechanical) from Sinhgad College of Engineering, Vadgaon. He is now working as a teacher at Jnana Prabodhini, Pune. Kalyan is also an Art of Living teacher, and is eligible to conduct and teach Pranayam (Sudarshan kriya) and Guided Meditation

**Jayshree Mestry** participated in and successfully completed the Gram Samvad Cycle Yatra (from 30 January to 12 February 2026), covering 2 states—Maharashtra and Gujarat. The Yatra was a large-scale social awareness initiative for promoting the ideals of Mahatma Gandhi, and bringing positive change in society. It involved traveling through 5 districts and conducting various social programs in around 25 villages, while passing through nearly 80 villages in total.

Jayshree has completed her BCom as a GEF student, and is currently pursuing a Diploma in “Sustainable Rural Reconstruction in Gandhian Perspective” at Gandhi Research Foundation, Jalgaon.



# WAY FORWARD

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We step into FY 2026-27 with confidence and high aspirations, that are powered by each one of you - our valued patrons, supporters, volunteers and well-wishers.

The new financial year will see an increased focus on putting in place processes, structures, systems, and people, that will hold us in good stead as we grow in size and spread. We are looking forward to closely working with SVP India (see Highlights), on all these fronts.

In the last report we had mentioned about initiating a 6-monthly appraisal process for our HHE students, to assess their performance across 4 dimensions - i) Academic, ii) Health & Nutrition, iii) Overall well-being & physical activities, and iv) Behavioural & emotional aspects. A software application to support this process is being developed under the leadership of our alumna, Ankita Raut, and is planned to be launched in the coming quarter.

In the next quarter, we also plan to launch the 2<sup>nd</sup> cycle of survey of our alumni to assess the impact of higher education on their lives.

We look forward to your suggestions and feedback. Your continued involvement motivates us to keep striving and do better.

# CLOSING THOUGHTS

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Here is an early version of an article by Dr, Pradeep Waychal titled “Development of a Child’s Brain”, to be soon published in external media

We all know that human beings have a highly developed brain. However, in most cases, child’s brain does not develop to their full potential. Parents and other elders must know that they can influence the brain development of their child. This can be right from the time the child is in the mother’s womb till it becomes an adult. Before understanding how to do this, let us know a little about our brain.

The brain broadly has three parts. The first is the **reptilian or primitive brain**, which controls basic life functions such as breathing and heartbeat. The second is the **amygdala**, which is the emotional centre. It creates quick emotional reactions like fear, anger, and excitement— before consulting the thinking brain i.e., the **frontal cortex**. This part helps us think, plan, and make decisions. This thinking part of the brain has two sides. The left side helps with logic and analysis, and the right side supports creativity and the expression of emotions.

In a fully developed brain, all these parts must work together. This is called a **whole-brain approach**. It means there is a balance between instinct, emotions, and thinking. When this balance develops, child learns to respond thoughtfully instead of reacting impulsively. We are presenting some ideas to do that. These are from the book “**The Whole-Brain Child**” by **Daniel Siegel** and **Tina Bryson**.

When a child is young, it is mostly guided by emotions. So, when a child feels angry, sad, or upset, it is not useful to explain things logically. First, we must understand and accept the child’s emotions. A parent can say, “I understand you are upset,” and offer comfort through a hug or gentle touch. This helps the child feel safe and calm. After that, it becomes easier to use a logical approach.

For example, if Anushka is upset because her friend Savi cannot come to play with her, the parent should first comfort her as explained above. After she feels better, the parent can gently suggest other options, such as playing with another friend or playing with Savi the next day. When emotions settle, child can think and handle situations better.

# CLOSING THOUGHTS

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Continued from previous page

The thinking part of the brain becomes stronger with use. That is why child should be given opportunities to make decisions from an early age. A young child can make simple decisions, such as what to wear for an outing or which cup to use for drinking milk. As they grow, they can be presented more difficult situations. For example, what will they do, if they find a toy in the park or if they see someone being troubled. Such opportunities develop child's thinking abilities. The child may make mistakes. That is a part of learning and should be accepted. Activities like games, puzzles, and sudoku can improve thinking skills, too. Our education system does not focus on developing thinking ability, which must be compensated.

Memory development is another important aspect. It also improves with practice. Parents can support this by playing memory games, talking about the child's day, and discussing past experiences. Looking at family photo albums and asking child what they remember about the photographed event also strengthens memory.

A happy and friendly family environment plays an important role in developing brain. When relationships are warm and supportive, child feels secure. Spending enjoyable time together—talking, playing, laughing, traveling, or watching movies—helps build strong emotional bonds.

Raising a child has, obviously, its challenges. However, each challenge can be seen as an opportunity to help the child grow; to develop emotional strength, balance, and empathy. That immensely benefits both the child and parents.

**We thank you for your  
continued support to our  
mission of “Education for All”**

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