

The positively life-changing newsletter.

“The beginning is the most important part of the work.”

-Plato

SPARSH ART Centre Ranked 4th in India



॥ सत्यमेव जयते ॥

जिल्हाधिकारी व जिल्हादंडाधिकारी
धाराशिव

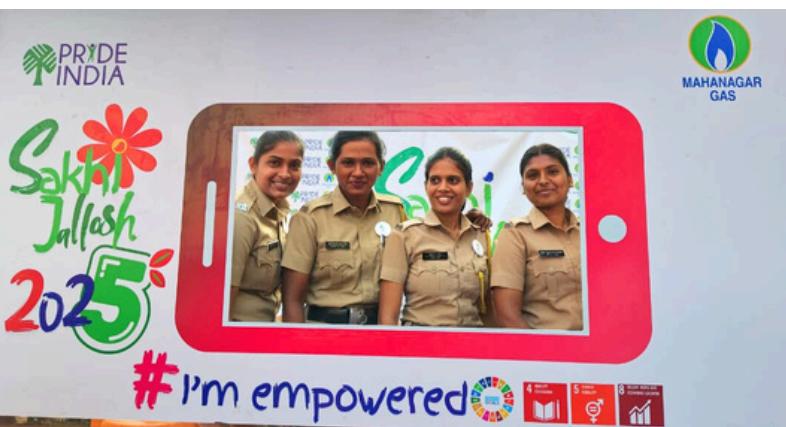


We are proud to share that The PRIDE India SPARSH Rural Hospital ART Centre has been ranked 4th at the national level by the National AIDS Control Organisation, achieving top scores across all 16 HIV-ART performance indicators. This recognition reflects the strong teamwork, effective management, positive advocacy, disciplined work culture, and unwavering commitment of the SPARSH team. In the district-level meeting held today, Hon. District Collector Shri Kirti Kiran Pujar and Hon. CEO Zilla Parishad Dr. Mainak Ghosh appreciated this achievement in the presence of all district-level officers and felicitated the SPARSH team with a bouquet, commending their consistent and impactful work.

Why should our women be celebrated only on Women's Day



Empowered women, empowered villages. Under the PRIDE India and Mahanagar Gas Limited Vikas Shashwat Gram Program at Shrivardhan, Raigad, Sakhi Jalosh 2025 was celebrated with great enthusiasm at the village level, bringing together 100+ women from each village. The program focused on cyber security awareness and women safety laws, with inspiring sessions led by lady police officers, while women also engaged in fun-filled activities, games, and shared moments of laughter, celebrating unity, awareness, and joy. By coming together with knowledge and confidence, these women are helping their villages move one step closer to a Viksit Bharat.



Quality Care, Closer to Home



Project NIRAMAY is bridging the healthcare gap in rural Parbhani with a mobile clinic serving 40 villages across Palam and Gangakhed, reaching 62,000+ people with accessible, comprehensive care focused on prevention, early detection, and wellness, bringing quality healthcare closer to those who need it most.

The inauguration was graced by Ms. Harsha Bangari (Managing Director, Export Import Bank of India) and Mr. Tarun Sharma (Deputy Managing Director), with acknowledgements to Ms. Deepali Agrawal (Deputy Managing Director), Mr. T. D. Sivakumar (Chief General Manager), Mr. Renzdon Rodrigues (CSR Officer), and Ms. Isha Mehra (President & Managing Trustee, The PRIDE India), along with teams from Export Import Bank of India and The PRIDE India.

Children's Day for every Child, Every Day!



Across PRIDE India's projects, Children's Day was celebrated with a vibrant series of learning experiences, cultural explorations, and joyful activities that reflected our commitment to nurturing every child, every day. Children visited the Kashta Shilpa Museum at Kolad, explored the historic Murud Janjira Fort, and learned traditional craft techniques at the Mangav pottery centre. Through our partnership with IISER Pune, schools joined an online Children's Day session with demonstrations and interactions, alongside hands-on STEM activities in Zilla Parishad schools of Pali Sudhagad. Centres hosted elocution and essay competitions, Warli wall-painting, and fun games as part of Pandit Nehru's birth anniversary celebrations. Together, these moments celebrated curiosity, creativity, and confidence—reminding us that at PRIDE India, we strive to ensure every child is encouraged, equipped, and empowered to spread their wings and fly, not just on Children's Day but throughout their journey of growth.

Enhanced Teacher Capacity Across 15 NMMC Schools



Under the HDFC Bank Parivartan Smart School Initiative, PRIDE India organised a two-part teacher training on the Fundamentals of Foundational Learning on 5th and 29th November 2025. A total of 60 teachers from 15 NMMC-run secondary schools participated in the sessions, facilitated by Mr. Nitin Salkar, Founder of Quantum Learning. The training focused on strengthening foundational learning by improving students' attention, memory, emotional well-being, classroom participation, and the quality of homework. Teachers were equipped to identify learning difficulties and apply practical strategies to address them, while also promoting strong self-study habits so that students become more independent and confident learners. Overall, the training was informative and productive, building teachers' capacity to enhance classroom practices and learning outcomes. The Smart School Initiative aims to holistically improve learning by upgrading school infrastructure, strengthening teacher capacities, and promoting health and well-being education for children.

15 Smart Schools Inaugurated Across Navi Mumbai



The HDFC Bank Parivartan and The PRIDE India Smart School initiative was inaugurated at NMMC School No. 105, Ghansoli, along with the launch of a new Science Lab and Library. The ceremony also marked the inauguration of all 15 Smart Schools established across Navi Mumbai through this collaboration. The event was attended by NMMC officials, Ms. Deepali Divekar, Assistant Commissioner, Education, Ms. Sangharatna Khillare, Deputy Commissioner, Education, and Mr. Ashok Sonawane, Principal, NMMC School No. 105, along with HDFC Bank Parivartan representatives, Mr. Raghavendraswamy, Zonal Head, Mumbai, Mr. Somesh Nambiar, Zonal Head, Mumbai West, and Ms. Prachi Muktibodh, Communication and Partnership, West, and from The PRIDE India, Ms. Isha Mehra, President. The programme concluded with the distribution of health and hygiene kits to students, reinforcing a shared commitment to smarter, safer, and healthier learning environments.

Strengthening Value Addition and Market Linkages



On 10 December 2025, PRIDE India, with support from HDFC Bank Parivartan, inaugurated the Kokan Pride FPC Processing Unit at Golawashi, Lanja during the Lakshya Krushi Melava. The programme was attended by key government and bank representatives including Mr. Shivkumar Sadafule, District Superintendent Agriculture Officer, Mr. Santosh Mhetre and the Agriculture Officers and TAO, Lanja, Ms. Manisha, Regional Head, HDFC CSR, Mr. Ajay Dhone, Cluster Head, Ratnagiri, Mr. Ganesh Karmarkar from the HDFC marketing team, Mr. Yogesh Pagare, CSR Manager, and senior officials from HDFC Bank, along with PRIDE India leadership, Ms. Isha Mehra, President, and Dr. Virendra Kulkarni, Regional Head. The processing unit will strengthen value addition for local produce through improved processing capacity and standardised systems, enable better quality and price realisation, and create livelihood opportunities for rural youth and women, reducing dependence on external processors. Dignitaries appreciated the initiative and reinforced the importance of collective action, capacity building, and stronger market linkages, while farmers shared that the unit will open new avenues for income growth and long-term sustainability.

Zahid's Silver, His One Rep Max!



Master Zahid Jahur Kanekar, a Class 12 Science student from Warandh, Mahad, exemplifies how holistic support can transform rural potential into national-level achievement. Identified through the PRIDE India and Avanse Financial Services Child Holistic Development Project, Zahid's strong interest and early performance in powerlifting were nurtured through a focused two-month intervention that provided state-level professional coaching, scientific training guidance, structured practice schedules, and essential equipment. Despite coming from a modest family background and limited access to formal sports facilities, Zahid demonstrated exceptional discipline and commitment. The intervention enabled him to significantly improve his technique, strength, and confidence, culminating in a Silver Medal in the 59 kg category at the Maharashtra State-Level Powerlifting Championship, representing Raigad District. Following this success, Zahid was officially selected to compete at the National Powerlifting Championship. His journey highlights the power of early talent identification, structured mentoring, and integrated sports and education support, reinforcing the impact of holistic child development in enabling rural children to dream big and achieve beyond boundaries.

One Fruit Many Futures



Krushirang Pride Shetkari Gat, a 15-member farmer collective from Bhambed, Lanja (Ratnagiri), formed in November 2024 with support from PRIDE India, is transforming from raw-produce sellers to value-adding agro-entrepreneurs. Through hands-on trainings and exposure visits across Ratnagiri, Sindhudurg, and Kolhapur, members strengthened their skills in food processing, quality, compliance, and record-keeping, and set up a small but efficient processing line with food-grade utensils, a pulper, heating arrangements, and strict hygiene protocols. Ahead of the mango season, they piloted diversification by processing 50 kg of ripe tomatoes into ketchup and sauce, while directing peels and seeds to vermicomposting to improve soil health in their fields and kitchen gardens. Alongside, the group developed a simple brand identity with eco-friendly bags, stickers, and stationery to prepare for local outlets and fairs. Early results show end-to-end confidence in procurement, grading, pulping, hot-filling, labelling, and sales, with pilot batches generating steady cash to keep the unit active and cover incidentals. The rotating roster for procurement, processing, quality checks, and sales has deepened ownership and accountability, nudged margins upward compared to raw sales, and strengthened entrepreneurial skills and sustainable practices. In the next 90 days, the collective will align batch calendars with nearby orchards, follow Brix and consistency SOPs for mango pulp, adopt basic FSSAI labelling and batch coding, conduct simple shelf-life checks, and use batch-wise costing to guide pricing and margins, reinvesting future profits into upgraded equipment and a stronger, community-owned rural enterprise built on quality, sustainability, and pride.



Hygiene made fun and Memorable!

Under the PRIDE India and AkzoNobel Parivartan Project, an engaging handwashing awareness session took place for children attending NMMC-run primary schools in Sanpada and Turbhegaon. Through interactive demonstrations, approximately 80 children discovered the proper steps for handwashing with soap and water. They were encouraged to practice this essential habit before meals and after using the restroom, reinforcing their understanding of hygiene and fostering healthy practices.