



# PARIVARTAN

JANUARY 2025

The positively life-changing newsletter.

"Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success." — **Henry Ford**



## Celebrating Two Years as a "Great Place to Work"!

We are excited to share a remarkable milestone in our journey at Pride India – we've been officially recognized as a "Great Place to Work" for two consecutive years! This prestigious certification is a true reflection of our ongoing commitment to creating an inclusive, supportive, and inspiring workplace. A heartfelt thank you goes out to everyone who contributes to making Pride India a place of growth, innovation, and success. Together, this recognition is just the beginning of many more milestones to come.





# The Marathwada Bhushan Award



remote  
**384 Villages**

**200,000 Patients annually**

**1,600 Childbirths annually**

**1,800 Surgeries annually**

A Proud Moment for Pride India SPARSH Rural Hospital! The PRIDE India SPARSH Rural Hospital, established in 1993, has been a lifeline for over 384 villages, serving more than 200,000 patients annually. With an OPD average of 60,000, 1,600 childbirths, and over 1,800 surgeries each year, SPARSH's impact extends far beyond numbers. Mobile medical units, health camps, and preventive healthcare initiatives ensure no community is left behind, while its NQAS certification reflects an unwavering commitment to quality care.

Behind every statistic lies a story of resilience, hope, and transformation. Validating this sustained excellence, we are honored to announce that Pride India SPARSH Rural Hospital has been recognized with the prestigious "Marathwada Bhushan Award" by the Marathwada Mandal and the Marathwada Coordination Committee, Pune! This esteemed award celebrates our unwavering dedication to providing exceptional social welfare and healthcare services to the rural communities of Marathwada. It is a testament to our ongoing commitment to bringing quality healthcare to those who need it the most, especially those who cannot access conventional healthcare services.



# Milestones Achieved and Exciting New Developments



Pride India is excited to announce the successful completion of the first phase of the HDFC Bank supported Parivartan - Focused Rural Development Program (April 2021 to March 2024) and the launch of its next phase (April 2024 to March 2027). The new phase was inaugurated on June 19, 2024, at the "Krushu Samruddhiche Naveparve" event. The event was attended by key guests, including Mr. Ajay Shende (Agricultural Development Officer, Zilla Parishad - Ratnagiri), Mr. Santosh Mhetre (Block Development Officer, Lanja Taluka), and HDFC Bank representatives, along with the Pride India team. During the first phase, we reached 40 villages, empowering local farmers with skills and resources. Now, in the second phase, we will continue this work, expanding to 40 more villages. A key milestone was handing over the functioning to the Farmer Producer Groups, who are now ready to run the production on their own. This ongoing partnership aims to support farmers, promote sustainable agriculture, and bring long-term prosperity to rural communities.



In rural India, life often comes with challenges like limited access to water, education, and job opportunities. The Shashwat Gram Project by PRIDE India and Mahanagar Gas Limited aims to change this by helping villages become self-reliant and sustainable. The Program focuses on five key areas:

- Water and Soil Conservation:** Protecting natural resources to ensure clean water and fertile soil.
- Women Empowerment:** Helping women learn skills to start small businesses and support their families.
- Quality Education:** Ensuring children have access to good education and a brighter future.
- Health and Hygiene:** Encouraging clean habits and better sanitation for healthier lives.
- Community Leadership:** Teaching locals to make smart decisions for their village's growth.

Over three years, the project will work with 10 villages and 13 hamlets in the Shrivardhan block of Raigad, directly benefiting nearly 7,000 people. Through training, resources, and support, the project aims to create lasting change in these communities. At its heart, the Shashwat Gram Program believes in teamwork and community ownership. It's about creating villages where every child learns, every family thrives, and every voice is heard

# Stories of Impact



## A Brighter and Energetic Ishwar



Meet Ishwar, a 14-year-old boy from Narangwadi village, Dharashiv, who has faced more challenges than most his age. After losing both his parents to HIV, Ishwar moved in with his uncle. In 2021, Ishwar fell ill with fever and diarrhoea, and after medical examination, he was diagnosed with HIV. His world turned upside down, but it was just the beginning of a new chapter. His uncle, determined to help Ishwar, brought him to SPARSH ART Centre, where he received the care, treatment, and support he desperately needed. From the very first day, the PRIDE India SPARSH team provided Ishwar with essential medical care, counselling, and nutrition support, which began to show results quickly. "Ishwar's health has improved dramatically since he started receiving the necessary medical attention," says his uncle. "He's back to school, his weight has increased to 25 kg, and his CD4 count has jumped from 326 to 560."

What truly made a difference was the outreach team's regular visits, their counselling, and the behaviour change communication that helped Ishwar overcome his fears and misconceptions about HIV. The specially designed diet plan not only improved his physical health but gave him a renewed sense of hope. Today, Ishwar is a bright, energetic teenager, ready to take on school again and committed to his treatment. His uncle, now deeply inspired by the work of the SPARSH ART Care and Support Center team, is fully dedicated to supporting Ishwar. "I am confident that one day, Ishwar will grow up strong and will be there for me," he shares. For Ishwar, a simple yet powerful statement sums it all up: "I am so happy I am able to go to school again. Thank you, The PRIDE India."

Ishwar dreams of becoming a doctor one day. He hopes to help other children who are going through similar challenges, just like he did. Ishwar wants to inspire others with his journey, proving that with hope, resilience, and the right support, any dream is possible.



**Identity and names are altered to conserve anonymity**

# Stories of Impact

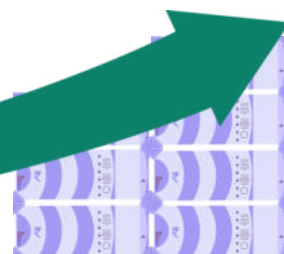


## Ambaji's Journey

From Struggle to Empowerment Meet Ambaji Janu Nirgude from Shirsewadi village, Raigad. Ambaji, who lived with his family on a small piece of land, struggled to make ends meet. His work taking cattle to graze wasn't enough to support his loved ones. However, his life changed when the Shashwat Gram, supported by the PRIDE India and Rotary Club of Bombay Pier, helped him start a grocery shop in his village. "I am so thankful to The PRIDE India and Rotary Club for giving me the opportunity to start my grocery shop. It has changed his life," says Ambaji.

**Initially earning only ₹100-₹200 per day, his shop now brings in ₹600-₹700 daily, significantly improving his financial stability.** With this new income, Ambaji has learned to save and invest, ensuring a better future for his family. He's also become actively involved in his community, contributing to its development. "I am grateful for the change this project has brought into my life. It has empowered me to support my family and think like an entrepreneur," says Ambaji. Thanks to PRIDE India and the Rotary Club of Bombay Pier, Ambaji's transformation from financial struggle to stability is a shining example of how community-based initiatives can spark lasting change.

**600%** increase in daily income  
100₹ to 700₹



# Stories of Impact



## Lighting the Path to Success

Ishika's Journey in Ghurupkond In the small, quiet village of Ghurupkond, where opportunities once seemed out of reach, a remarkable transformation is unfolding. At the heart of this change is the study center, part of The Pride India and Mahanagar Gas Limited Shashwat Gram, which has become a symbol of hope and possibility for the entire community. **Among those whose lives have been touched by this initiative is Ishika Raju Dhondge, a bright and determined seventh-grader. While Ishika excelled in many subjects, English remained her biggest challenge, standing between her and her dreams.** Her parents, hardworking and deeply devoted to her education, did everything they could, but they couldn't offer her the support she needed to overcome this obstacle. Then, the study center opened its doors. **Through the English reading improvement program, Ishika was introduced to a world of vibrant visual aids, fun activities, and daily practice that transformed her learning experience.**

Slowly, her confidence grew, and so did her skills. The results were nothing short of extraordinary. Ishika now reads English fluently, using new words with ease and approaching her studies with newfound enthusiasm. This year, she aced her exams, making her parents beam with pride and inspiring the entire village. But Ishika's success is just the beginning. The study center has ignited a wave of hope across Ghurupkond, where children are eager to learn, parents are filled with pride, and the entire community is united in their belief that education holds the power to change their futures. Thanks to The Pride India and Mahanagar Gas Limited, the study center is more than just a building—it's the foundation of dreams. Their commitment to the community is transforming Ghurupkond into a village where every child has the opportunity to shine.



# We can't help everyone, but everyone can help someone....

This year, we are raising funds to support five incredible children who have tragically lost one of their parents. Despite their heartbreaking loss, they are determined to build a better future. Your donation will help provide them with the opportunity for higher education.

As they participate in the Tata Mumbai Marathon, let's stand by them and show them that they are not alone. Every contribution, big or small, will make a lasting impact. Together, we can help them run toward a brighter future. Thank you for your generosity!



<https://www.unitedwaymumbai.org/fundraiser/24029>

## Scan to know more

