

The positively life-changing newsletter.

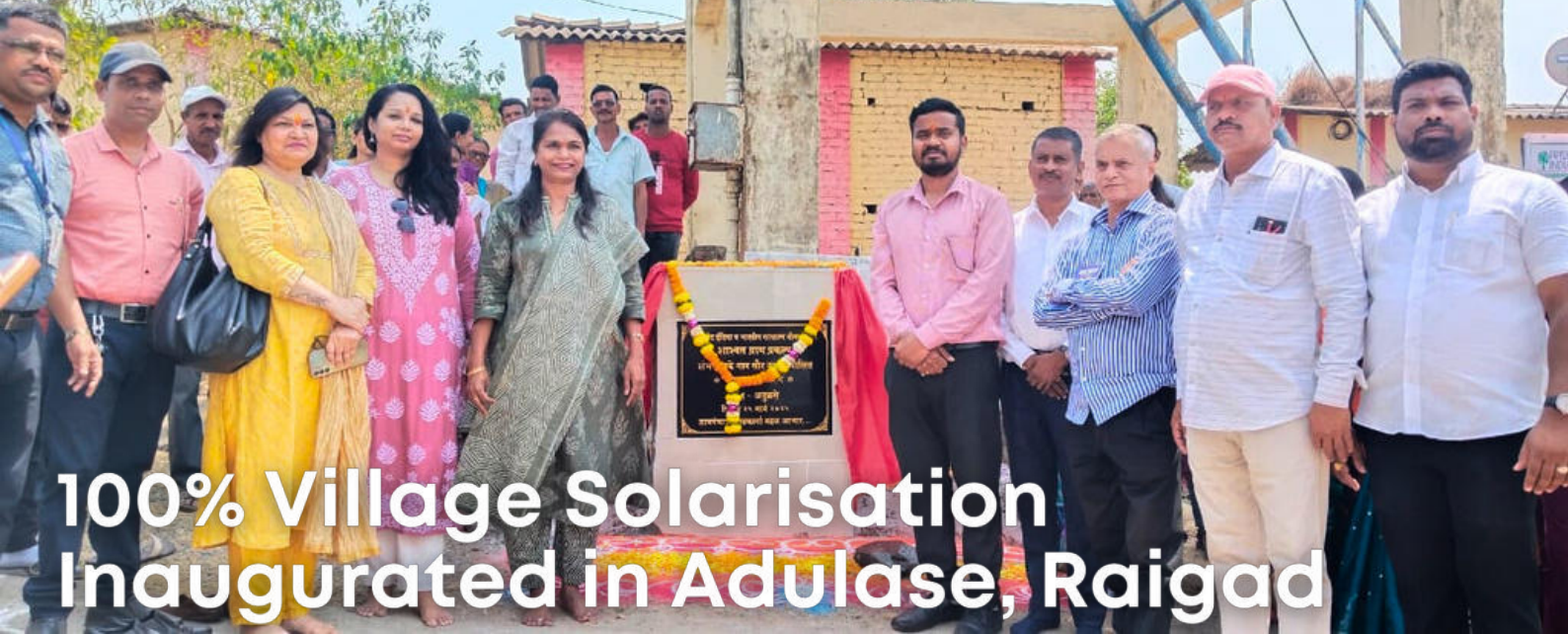
“Ensuring safe motherhood is not just a medical responsibility, it’s a moral one.” – Dr. Gro Harlem Brundtland (Former Director-General, WHO)

Sparsh Hospital honoured for State second highest safe deliveries!



On the occasion of World Health Day, the Ministry of Health, Government of Maharashtra, felicitated top-performing health facilities across the state. We are proud to share that Sparsh Rural Hospital was awarded the State-Level 2nd Prize for achieving the highest number of safe deliveries in the Rural Hospital Category.

The award was received by Smt. Isha Mehra, President, PRIDE India, and Mr. Ramakant Joshi, Regional Head – Marathwada, from Hon. Prof. Ram Shinde, Speaker of the Legislative Council, and Mr. Prakash Abitkar, Health Minister, Government of Maharashtra. The event was also graced by Dr. Nipun Vinayak, Health Secretary, and Mr. Virendra Singh, Secretary, Public Health Ministry.



PRIDE India, in collaboration with General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC Re), proudly inaugurated the 100% Village Solarisation of Adulase Village under the GIC Solar Village Initiative. This milestone marks a transformative shift toward clean, consistent, and sustainable energy for the entire community.

Key Highlights:

- Over 100 buildings, including homes, schools, and community halls, are now powered with individual solar electricity units.
- Solar street lighting has been installed across the village, enhancing visibility and safety during night hours.
- The initiative significantly reduces dependency on conventional power sources, ensuring a reliable and eco-friendly energy future.

This effort not only empowers individual households but also strengthens the village's infrastructure, supporting education, safety, and overall well-being. The Ideal Village Solarization Initiative is a shining example of how collaborative action can light up lives—literally and figuratively.

A Run That Made a Difference!

The Tata Mumbai Marathon 2025 was a powerful moment of unity and purpose for PRIDE India. Our passionate runners laced up their shoes to champion critical causes—accessible healthcare, livelihood training, and education for rural India.

We are deeply grateful to everyone who supported and ran for change. Your dedication and effort continue to inspire us as we work to transform lives across rural India.

A special mention to Ms. Isha Mehra and Mr. Ramakant Joshi, our Bronze and Gold Fundraisers respectively, whose contributions have made a meaningful impact on our mission.

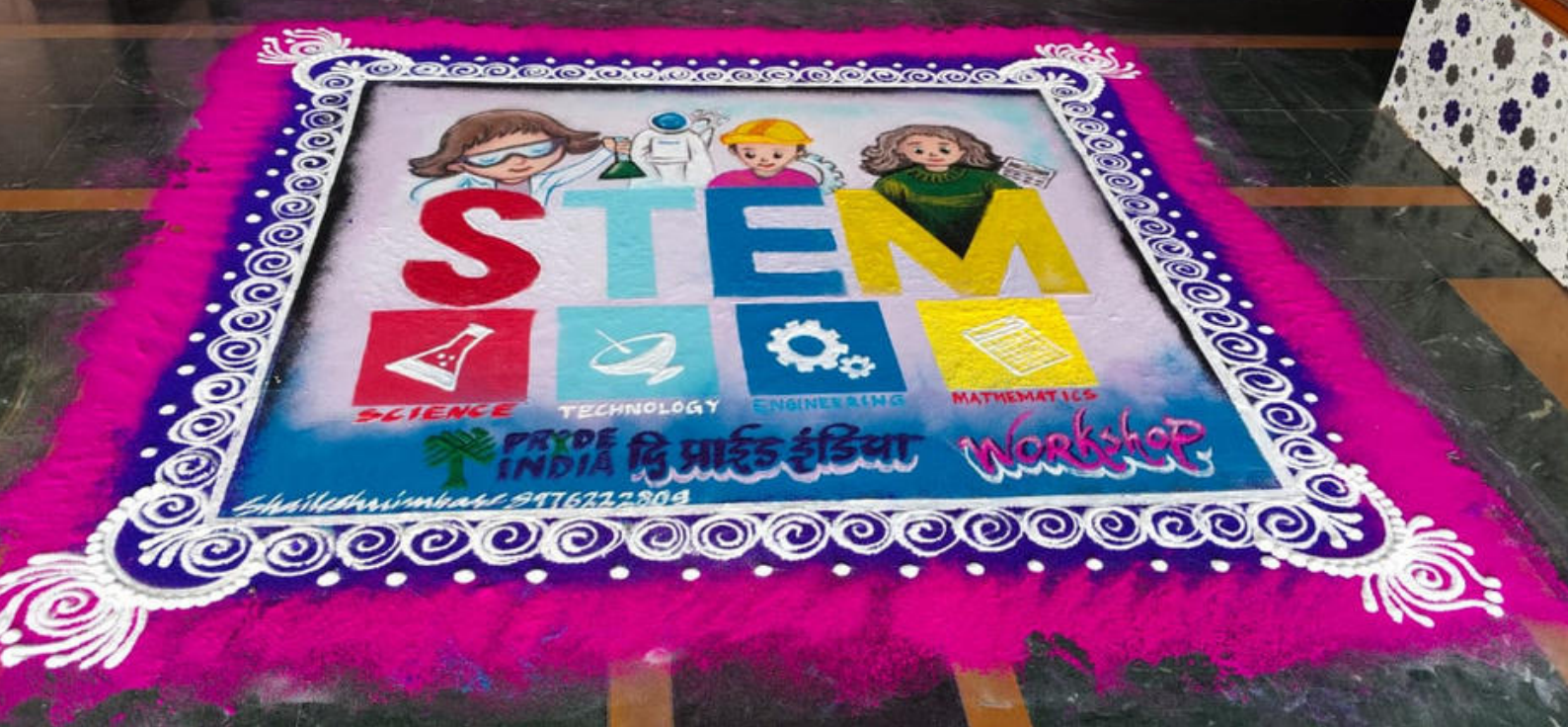


Student-Teacher Workshop Ignites a Spark for Science & Innovation!

Under the Holistic Education Project, a Student-Teacher Workshop was held in collaboration with IISER Pune at Bharat Ratna Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Rashtriya Smarak, Mahad, benefiting 200 students and teachers from government schools in Mahad, Pali, and Shrivardhan.

Impact: Teachers learned innovative ways to teach Science and Math, while students explored experiments and demonstrations, sparking interest in research and learning.

This initiative, supported by Avanse Financial Services and PRIDE India, is building stronger classrooms and brighter futures through engaging, hands-on education.





LANTERNS OF HOPES

Shining light on rural struggles and successes

WRITTEN BY GOPAL ASHOK JADHAV
SR. MANAGER- PRIDE INDIA



A FORGOTTEN DREAM REVIVED

Khujare, a small village tucked away in rural block of Shrivardhan, had long followed a familiar rhythm. Women here spent their days managing household chores, collecting water, and tending to their families. Financial decisions were never their concern; they relied on their husbands or occasional daily wages for any monetary needs. There were no women's collectives, no platforms where they could come together and think about their own financial future. For years, the idea of self-sufficiency remained a distant dream. That began to change when the Shashwat Gram Project team arrived in the village with a vision—to introduce women to the power of Self-Help Groups (SHGs). At first, the idea was met with uncertainty. Many women had never heard of an SHG importance before, and those who had, assumed **it was something meant for other more educated or "smart" women**, —not them. The thought of handling money, maintaining records, and visiting a bank felt intimidating. **"How can we do all this? We've never even held a bank passbook in our hands,"** some women expressed hesitantly. As the discussions deepened, an elderly woman slowly raised her voice, her eyes reflecting memories of a past long forgotten by most. She spoke of a time, **22 years ago, when a group of women in the village** had come together with similar hopes. **"We had a group once,"** she said, her voice carrying both nostalgia and regret. **"But we didn't know what to do. There was no one to guide us, no one to tell us how to make it work. Slowly, it just faded away, like a dream we never got to live."**

A hush fell over the group as her words sank in. The women looked at one another, some nodding in silent agreement. They had all felt powerless at some point, believing that opportunities like these belonged to others, not to them. But this time was different. This time, they had the chance to rewrite their story—to build something strong, something lasting. This wasn't just about forming a group; it was about proving to themselves that they could take control of their future. And so, the conversations continued, not in grand meetings but in small, everyday moments—in homes, school premises, under the shade of old trees where women gathered to chat. The project team member **Ms. Ritu and Ms. Bhakti shared stories of women from other villages who had once been in the same position but had taken the leap and changed their lives.** Slowly, hesitation gave way to curiosity. Women started asking questions—**how much do we need to save? Who will handle the money? Can we really open a bank account?** Encouraged by these discussions, the first few women agreed to form a group. Then another group followed, and soon, there were **eight groups with a total of 80 women—each one determined to take their first step toward financial independence. For a village that had never seen a single SHG before, this was a remarkable beginning.**



One of the biggest milestones was opening bank accounts. For many, it was their first time stepping into a bank. Dressed in their best sarees, they walked into the bank, nervous yet excited. The bank officers, initially surprised by such a large group of women, guided them through the process. When they finally held their account passbooks in their hands, the pride on their faces was evident. It was a moment of realization—this was real, they were truly in control of their own savings.



A FORGOTTEN DREAM REVIVED

With their groups established and their savings growing, a new sense of confidence began to emerge among the women of Khujare. They started encouraging others to join, explaining to their families why saving together mattered. Husbands, who were initially doubtful, started noticing the discipline and commitment their wives showed toward their groups. Some even started supporting them, understanding that these SHGs could bring long-term financial stability to their households. Although the groups are still in their early days, focused purely on savings, the impact is already visible. **Women who once hesitated to step out of their homes now sit together, plan their savings, and discuss their future.** The SHGs have given them not just financial knowledge but also a sense of unity and strength. Khujare's journey with SHGs has only just begun, but the foundation has been set. **The women have taken the first step toward a future where they are not just passive members of their households but active participants in their own growth.** The road ahead holds endless possibilities—access to credit, small businesses, and community initiatives—but for now, the simple act of saving together is already transforming their lives. **Once, they believed change was meant for others. That confidence, independence, and dreams belonged to women in distant places—not them.** But today, as they sit together, saving, planning, and daring to hope, they know differently. The women of Khujare are no longer just silent witnesses to life; they are shaping their own futures.

WITH EVERY RUPEE SAVED, EVERY MEETING HELD, AND EVERY VOICE THAT ONCE TREMBLED NOW SPEAKING WITH CONVICTION, THEY ARE PROVING THAT CHANGE IS POSSIBLE WHEN SOMEONE EXTENDS A HAND AND SAYS,

"YOU CAN"

WITH HEARTS OVERFLOWING WITH GRATITUDE, THEY THANK PRIDE INDIA AND MAHANAGAR GAS LIMITED—NOT JUST FOR THEIR SUPPORT, BUT FOR BELIEVING IN THEM WHEN THEY HAD YET TO BELIEVE IN THEMSELVES.



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



**She gives life! She provides!
but what if she lacks the basics herself?**

This Mother's Day, you can be her supporter!

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know more**

