SVYM Swami Vivekananda Youth Movement

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Highlights

A Wider Classroom for Palliative Care

Events

Young Aspirations on a Shared Journey: Yuva Payana









Join the Movement - Job Openings

Featured Article

Data-Driven Development: Building Solutions from Within,
by S. Santhosh,
Data & Monitoring Expert

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S. Santhosh
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Data-Driven Development:

Building Solutions from Within



SVYM's experience with in-house applications shows how programme knowledge and accessible technology can strengthen the collection and use of data.

For teams providing healthcare across dispersed communities, bringing patient records and follow-up information together can make everyday care easier to coordinate. SVYM's experience of developing applications for reproductive and child health and palliative care offers lessons for NGOs seeking affordable digital solutions shaped by their own work.

In community health programmes, information gathered during a field visit often guides what happens next: a pregnant woman may need closer monitoring, a patient may require a follow-up visit, or several professionals may need to coordinate their care. Making that information readily available to the team is therefore an important part of delivering

When I joined SVYM as a Data and Monitoring Consultant in 2022, I spent nearly three months understanding how our health programmes worked. Field visits and conversations with frontline workers and programme leaders helped me see what information they needed, how they recorded it and the difficulties they faced in bringing it together.

Teams documented their work every day, largely on paper, but compiled the information monthly. With limited access to computers, this was an understandable arrangement. However, information that could help colleagues plan visits, review progress and identify follow-up needs was not always readily available across the team.

The task was to develop a system that fitted these working realities, using technology and resources within our reach.

Beginning with reproductive and child health

SVYM's Reproductive and Child Health (RCH) programme works with communities to improve access to care for women and children. Its teams need to track information across stages of care, including pregnancy, childbirth and follow-up, making continuity of records particularly important.

A former SVYM colleague had already used AppSheet, Google's no-code application development platform, for some health programmes. Although I had heard of it, I had never used it. I began learning the platform and developed an application for RCH, drawing on what the team needed in its everyday work.

The application brought programme information together and allowed staff to enter and retrieve records using mobile phones or computers. Filters helped identify cases requiring follow-up, while dashboards made progress easier to review. Staff could also record information offline during field visits and synchronise it when connectivity became available.

Introducing the application involved more than explaining its features. Some colleagues were hesitant about changing familiar routines, while others had concerns about how centrally stored information would be accessed and used. Working through these questions helped us understand that confidence in the system would develop through experience, training and clear arrangements for access.

As staff began using it, the practical benefits became more apparent. Information was easier to find, and different components of the programme could be reviewed together rather than assembled from

An external evaluation by Align Partners subsequently documented the application's contribution to the programme's Management Information System. Introduced in mid-2023, the tool supported tracking of antenatal care and identification of high-risk pregnancies. Structured forms, dropdown menus and automatic calculations reduced manual entry, while access permissions limited which records each user could view.

The evaluation also noted connectivity-related reporting delays and occasional inaccuracies, reinforcing the need for continued staff training and improvements to the interface. The experience showed us that developing an application was only the beginning; keeping it useful required ongoing attention to both the users and the quality of information being recorded.

Applying the learning to palliative care

The RCH experience gave me greater confidence in translating programme requirements into an application. When we began working with SVYM's Palliative Care Programme, the challenge was to bring together information generated by different professionals supporting people living with serious, life-limiting illnesses.

Care could involve repeated home visits as well as outpatient and inpatient services, with doctors, nurses, physiotherapists, counsellors and field staff contributing at different points. Having an accessible record of a patient's needs, assessments and previous visits was important for planning the next steps together.

Working with the programme team, we mapped the information required at each stage, covering referral, assessment, registration, the doctor's first visit and subsequent follow-ups. The programme lead's involvement helped ensure that the clinical content and workflow reflected how care was delivered.

The resulting application brought each patient's records and follow-up history together. For the home-care team, it incorporated standardised forms, assessment tools, follow-up alerts and prompts to help prioritise visits, with access permissions configured to protect patient information.

A six-month pilot examined its feasibility and usability through staff feedback, observation and regular programme reviews. Staff reported easier retrieval of patient information, better coordination across disciplines and greater confidence in planning subsequent visits. The team also documented improvements in the speed and consistency of data entry, alongside reduced reporting time and physical paperwork.

These findings were presented at the palliative care conference in Hyderabad in a paper co-authored by Dr. Vibha S P, Dr. Sridevi Seetharam and me, sharing the experience with others working in home-

Across RCH and palliative care, development has continued through use, feedback and refinement. The applications serve different care requirements, but both experiences underline the importance of building tools around the people who use them.

Five lessons for NGOs building their own tools

Understand the work before designing the application. Field visits and discussions clarify what information is needed, who will use it and which features serve a practical purpose.

Bring programme and technical colleagues together from the start. Combining field knowledge with application-building skills helps tools reflect programme needs and adapt as they change.

Design for everyday field conditions. Mobile access, simple forms and offline entry make applications more practical, while connectivity limitations require planning for timely information sharing.

Give adoption the same attention as development. Training, clear access permissions and responsiveness to concerns build confidence, while staff feedback guides improvements.

Build internal capacity and plan for the full cost. No-code platforms can reduce reliance on external developers, but staff time, training, maintenance and licensing still require investment. The knowledge gained remains within the organisation.

For me, useful technology grows out of understanding the work. Combining that understanding with technical skills helps organisations build and maintain tools that serve their programmes.

Their value becomes visible in everyday decisions—identifying follow-up needs, coordinating visits and reviewing progress—helping teams use information more confidently in their work with individuals, families and communities.

Sharing a Vision for Excellence in Rural Eye Care at an International Forum

Our continuing effort towards treatable blindness in rural and tribal communities was recently recognised with Dr. Chetan and Dr. Narendra Ramakrishna receiving the Association of Community Ophthalmologists of India's President's Gold Medal for their respective contributions to cataract surgery and diabetic retinopathy care.

Achieving high standards of care in a rural hospital takes a dedicated team. At VMH, the eye care team has recorded good outcomes in 97% of cataract surgeries for three consecutive years. Technology-enabled community screening and early detection have also brought diabetic eye care closer to rural communities, reducing the need for distant referrals and supporting continuity of treatment.

Leading the team is Dr. Narendra Ramakrishna, a retired doctor from an ISRO hospital who now volunteers with SVYM. His commitment to bringing the same standards of eye care to rural communities is a source of inspiration for the team.



Dr. Chetan and Dr. Narendra receive the ACOIN President's Gold Medal

At the Assembly of Community Ophthalmologists of South East Asia, he presented 'Diabetic Retinopathy Screening and Management in Tribal and Rural Communities of Karnataka', sharing lessons from SVYM's work.

The recognition of his and Dr. Chetan's contributions highlights the value of sustained, collaborative efforts to bring specialised eye care closer to rural and tribal communities.

Advancing Palliative Care Through Research and Learning

Community-based palliative care is an evolving field, shaped by what practitioners learn through caring for people and sharing those experiences with one another. SVYM contributes its community-based experience to this exchange while learning from others. Dr. Gowthami's international award recognises her contributions to public health approaches to palliative care, while Dr. Vibha's upcoming Singapore study visit offers opportunities for learning in care delivery, training and mentorship.

At the Indian Association of Palliative Care's international conference, IAPCON 2026, the team presented three research papers, contributing its community-based experience to wider discussions on care.

In recent years, SVYM's Palliative Care Programme has strengthened its focus on research and professional education. This approach is reflected in Dr. Gowthami P's selection for the Early Public Health Palliative Care Practitioner Award by Public Health Palliative Care International (PHPCI). The recognition acknowledges her contributions to integrating palliative care into primary healthcare and community-based systems, with an emphasis on equitable access and community participation. As Technical Director – Community Health, her work at SVYM brings together home-based care, multidisciplinary support, caregiver engagement and capacity building across rural, tribal and urban Karnataka.



Dr. Gowthami and Dr. Vibha interact with patients during palliative care home visits

Furthering the programme's professional development, Dr. Vibha S P, Senior Manager – Palliative Care Programme, will participate in a study visit to Singapore from 22–25 March 2027. The visit is part of the Singapore–India Palliative Care Accessibility Core Training (PACT) Programme, a collaboration between the Singapore International Foundation and Pallium India. This three-year initiative supports 30 professionals from across India to strengthen clinical practice and develop training and mentorship skills. Her participation offers an opportunity to learn from Singapore's palliative care services and share that knowledge with colleagues and other healthcare professionals.

Together, research, training and professional exchange support a shared purpose: improving care and quality of life for people living with serious illness and their families.

ನಿಶಾ ದೊಡ್ಡವಾಡ | ದೃಢಸಂಕಲ್ಪ, ಅವಕಾಶ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಾಜಕ್ಕೆ ಮರಳಿ ಕೊಡುವ ಮನೋಭಾವದ ಸ್ಫೂರ್ತಿದಾಯಕ ಪಯಣ*



ತನ್ನ ಕನಸಿನಾಚೆಗೂ ಯೋಚಿಸಿದ ನಿಶಾ ದೊಡ್ಡವಾಡ, ಶ್ರೀ ಜಯಂತ್ ಕೆ. ಎಸ್. (ಮುಖ್ಯಸ್ಥರು – ಉತ್ತರ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮಗಳು, ಎಸ್‌ವಿವೈಎಂ) ಅವರೊಂದಿಗೆ

ಇತರ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳಿಂದ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿವೇತನ ದೊರೆತಾಗ, SVYMನ ನೆರವು ಮತ್ತೊಬ್ಬ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಯ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣಕ್ಕೆ ನೆರವಾಗಲಿ ಎಂದು ನಿಶಾ ಅದನ್ನು ಪಡೆಯದಿರಲು ನಿರ್ಧರಿಸಿದಳು. ಇಂದು ಕಂಪ್ಯೂಟರ್ ಸೈನ್ಸ್ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರಿಂಗ್ ಅಂತಿಮ ವರ್ಷದಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಆಕೆ, ವಾರ್ಷಿಕ ₹12 ಲಕ್ಷ ವೇತನದ ಉದ್ಯೋಗಾವಕಾಶ ಪಡೆದಿದ್ದಾಳೆ—ತನ್ನ ಭವಿಷ್ಯವನ್ನು ರೂಪಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳುತ್ತಲೇ ಇತರರ ಅವಕಾಶಗಳ ಬಗ್ಗೆಯೂ ಕಾಳಜಿ ತೋರುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾಳೆ.

ಧಾರವಾಡದ ನಿಶಾ ದೊಡ್ಡವಾಡ ಇಂದು ತನ್ನ ಜೀವನದ ಹೊಸ ಅಧ್ಯಾಯವೊಂದನ್ನು ಆರಂಭಿಸುವ ಹೊಸ್ತಿಲಲ್ಲಿ ನಿಂತಿದ್ದಾಳೆ. ಮನೆಯಲ್ಲಿನ ಹಲವು ಸವಾಲುಗಳು ಮತ್ತು ಕಷ್ಟಗಳ ನಡುವೆಯೂ ತನ್ನ ಕನಸುಗಳನ್ನು ನನಸಾಗಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವ ಛಲ, ಪರಿಶ್ರಮ ಮತ್ತು ದೃಢಸಂಕಲ್ಪ ಅವಳ ಈ ಪಯಣಕ್ಕೆ ದಾರಿದೀಪವಾಗಿವೆ.

ನಿಶಾ ಹತ್ತನೇ ತರಗತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಓದುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾಗ ಐಐಟಿಯಿಂದ ಬಂದಿದ್ದ ಸಂಪನ್ಮೂಲ ವ್ಯಕ್ತಿಯೊಬ್ಬರು ಉನ್ನತ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣದಲ್ಲಿರುವ ವಿವಿಧ ಅವಕಾಶಗಳ ಕುರಿತು ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ನೀಡಿದ್ದರು. ಆ ದಿನದ ಆ ಒಂದು ಸಂವಾದ ನಿಶಾಳ ಮನಸ್ಸಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್ ಆಗಬೇಕೆಂಬ ಕನಸನ್ನು ಬಿತ್ತಿತು. ಅಂದಿನಿಂದಲೇ ಆ ಗುರಿಯತ್ತ ತನ್ನ ಪ್ರಯತ್ನವನ್ನು

ಎಸ್.ಎಸ್.ಎಲ್.ಸಿ. ಮುಗಿಸಿದ ನಂತರ ನಿಶಾ ಸ್ವಾಮಿ ವಿವೇಕಾನಂದ ಯೂತ್ ಮೂವ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್‌ನ ವಿವೇಕ ಸ್ಕಾಲರ್ ಪ್ರೋಗ್ರಾಂ (VSP) ಗೆ ಆಯ್ಕೆಯಾದಳು. ಈ ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮದ ಮೂಲಕ ಧಾರವಾಡದ ಶ್ರೀಮತಿ ವಿದ್ಯಾ ಪಿ. ಹಂಚಿನಮನಿ ಪದವಿಪೂರ್ವ ಕಾಲೇಜಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಉಚಿತವಾಗಿ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ಪಡೆಯುವ ಅವಕಾಶ ದೊರೆಯಿತು.

ಈ ಅವಕಾಶ ತನ್ನ ಜೀವನದ ಮಹತ್ವದ ತಿರುವು ಎಂದು ನಿಶಾ ನೆನಪಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳುತ್ತಾಳೆ.

ಪಿಯುಸಿ ನಂತರ ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿಯ ಬಿ.ವಿ.ಬಿ. ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರಿಂಗ್ ಕಾಲೇಜಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರವೇಶ ಪಡೆದ ನಿಶಾ, ಪ್ರಸ್ತುತ ಕಂಪ್ಯೂಟರ್ ಸೈನ್ಸ್ ವಿಭಾಗದಲ್ಲಿ ಬಿ.ಇ. ಅಂತಿಮ ವರ್ಷದಲ್ಲಿ ವ್ಯಾಸಂಗ ಮಾಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾಳೆ. ಈಗಾಗಲೇ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರಿನ ಸಾಫ್ಟ್‌ವೇರ್ ಕಂಪನಿಯೊಂದರಲ್ಲಿ ವಾರ್ಷಿಕ ₹12 ಲಕ್ಷ ವೇತನದ ಉದ್ಯೋಗಾವಕಾಶ ಪಡೆದುಕೊಂಡಿರುವ ಸಂತಸವನ್ನು

ನಿಶಾ ಹಲವು ಸಾಮಾಜಿಕ ಸವಾಲುಗಳನ್ನು ಎದುರಿಸಿದ್ದಾಗ್ಯೂ ಸಾಧನೆಯ ಜೊತೆಗೆ ಅವಳಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಮತ್ತೊಂದು ವಿಶೇಷ ಗುಣವೂ ಗಮನ ಸೆಳೆಯುತ್ತದೆ. ಅದು ತನಗೆ ದೊರೆತ ನೆರವು ಮತ್ತೊಬ್ಬರ ಬದುಕಿಗೂ ಆಸರೆಯಾಗಬೇಕೆಂಬ ಕಾಳಜಿ.

ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರಿಂಗ್ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣದ ಆರಂಭದಲ್ಲಿ SVYMನ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿವೇತನ ನಿಶಾಳಿಗೆ ನೆರವಾಯಿತು. ನಂತರ ಇತರ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳಿಂದಲೂ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿವೇತನ ದೊರೆಯಲಾರಂಭಿಸಿದಾಗ, ತನ್ನ ಎರಡನೇ ವರ್ಷದಿಂದ SVYMನ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿವೇತನವನ್ನು ಪಡೆಯದಿರಲು ನಿಶಾ ಸ್ವಯಂಪ್ರೇರಿತವಾಗಿ ನಿರ್ಧರಿಸಿದಳು.

"ನನಗೆ ಬೇರೆ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳಿಂದ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿವೇತನ ಸಿಗುತ್ತಿದೆ. SVYMನಿಂದ ದೊರೆಯುವ ನೆರವು ನನ್ನಂತೆಯೇ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಸಂಕಷ್ಟದಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಮತ್ತೊಬ್ಬ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಯ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣಕ್ಕೆ ಸಹಾಯವಾಗಲಿ ಎಂಬುದು ನನ್ನ ಆಶಯ," ಎಂದು ನಿಶಾ ಹೇಳುತ್ತಾಳೆ.

ಈ ನಿರ್ಧಾರ ನಿಶಾಳ ಪಯಣಕ್ಕೆ ಮತ್ತೊಂದು ಅರ್ಥಪೂರ್ಣ ಆಯಾಮವನ್ನು ನೀಡುತ್ತದೆ. ತನಗೆ ದೊರೆತ ಅವಕಾಶವನ್ನು ಕೇವಲ ತನ್ನ ಭವಿಷ್ಯವನ್ನು ರೂಪಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲು ಮಾತ್ರವಲ್ಲದೆ, ಮತ್ತೊಬ್ಬರ ಬದುಕಿನಲ್ಲಿಯೂ ಬದಲಾವಣೆ ತರಲು ಸಾಧ್ಯವಾಗುವಂತೆ ಯೋಚಿಸುವ ಅವಳ ಮನೋಭಾವ ಮೆಚ್ಚುವಂತಹದ್ದು.

"ವಿವೇಕ ಸ್ಕಾಲರ್ ಪ್ರೋಗ್ರಾಂ ನನ್ನಂತಹ ನೂರಾರು ಆರ್ಥಿಕವಾಗಿ ಹಿಂದುಳಿದ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳಿಗೆ ದಾರಿದೀಪವಾಗಿದೆ," ಎಂದು ನಿಶಾ ಕೃತಜ್ಞತೆಯಿಂದ ಸ್ಮರಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳುತ್ತಾಳೆ.

ನಿಶಾಳ ಕಥೆ ಕೇವಲ ಸವಾಲುಗಳನ್ನು ಮೆಟ್ಟಿ ನಿಂತು ಸಾಧನೆ ಮಾಡಿದ ಯುವತಿಯ ಕಥೆಯಲ್ಲ, ಒಬ್ಬ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಯ ದೃಢಸಂಕಲ್ಪಕ್ಕೆ ಸರಿಯಾದ ಸಮಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಸೂಕ್ತ ಅವಕಾಶ ಮತ್ತು ಬೆಂಬಲ ದೊರೆತಾಗ ಎಂತಹ ಸಾಧ್ಯತೆಗಳು ತೆರೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳುತ್ತವೆ ಎಂಬುದಕ್ಕೆ ಇದು ಉತ್ತಮ ಉದಾಹರಣೆ.

ತನ್ನ ಬದುಕನ್ನು ಕಟ್ಟಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವುದರ ಜೊತೆಗೆ ಇತರರ ಬದುಕಿನ ಬಗ್ಗೆಯೂ ಕಾಳಜಿ ಹೊಂದಿರುವ ನಿಶಾಳ ಪಯಣವು ಮಾನವ ಮತ್ತು ಸಾಮಾಜಿಕ ಬಂಡವಾಳವನ್ನು ಬೆಳೆಸುವ SVYMನ ಆಶಯವನ್ನು ಸುಂದರವಾಗಿ ಪ್ರತಿಬಿಂಬಿಸುತ್ತದೆ.

ಅಭಿನಂದನೆಗಳು ನಿಶಾ! ನಿನ್ನ ಸಾಧನೆ ಮತ್ತಷ್ಟು ಯುವಜನರಿಗೆ ಕನಸು ಕಾಣಲು, ಸವಾಲುಗಳನ್ನು ಎದುರಿಸಲು ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಾಜಕ್ಕೆ ತಮ್ಮದೇ ಆದ ಕೊಡುಗೆ ನೀಡಲು ಸ್ಫೂರ್ತಿಯಾಗಲಿ.

– Jayanth K S
Head of North Karnataka Programmes–SVYM

*Click here to read Nisha's story in English

Dr. R Balu's New Book on Leadership, 'The Inner Charioteer', Launched



Dr. R. Balasubramaniam with guest speakers as The Inner Charioteer begins its journey

On Krishna Janmashtami, 4 September 2026, The Inner Charioteer, the latest book by Dr. R. Balasubramaniam, Founder of SVYM and Full-time Member–NITI Aayog, was launched in Bengaluru.

The evening, organised in partnership with WMG Group, brought together Indic wisdom, contemporary leadership and four decades of lived experience, with speakers reflecting on the book and their association with Dr. Balu.

Swami Mahamedhanandaji from the Ramakrishna Mission reflected on the book's emphasis on ethical action. Recalling Dr. Balu's decision to decline a significant donation over concerns about its source, he highlighted the principle that the means matter as much as the end. His reflections connected the book's leadership lessons with lived choices—showing how the Gita's teachings become actionable when thought, speech and action align.

Mr. Manu Saale–MD & CEO, Mercedes-Benz Research and Development, India, connected the book to the contemporary workplace, describing *sthithaprajna* as the ability to pause, observe and respond with clarity. Mr. Dattatri Salagame–CEO, President, MD, Bosch Global Software Technologies, called The Inner Charioteer a 'handbook of leadership' and emphasised the need for an Indian leadership philosophy rooted in equilibrium, conviction and philosophical depth.



"One of the evening's key takeaways was – our experiences should inform us, not influence us."

Dr. Balu and Sri Dushyanth Sridhar reflect on bringing the Gita's wisdom into everyday leadership

In a conversation with Sri Dushyanth Sridhar, a Vedic Scholar, Dr. Balu reflected on the experiences that shaped his book, from working with tribal communities to questioning conventional approaches to development and healthcare. He emphasised seeing communities as "partners in progress", practising humility and recognising that our roles do not define who we are.

He also shared that, when faced with difficult choices, he asks himself what Swami Vivekananda would say or do. One of the evening's key takeaways was that our experiences should inform us, not influence us.

At its heart, The Inner Charioteer invites readers to discover the Krishna within and lead with clarity, humility and purpose.

The book is available for purchase on Amazon.in

Community Joins VMH to Put Health First with the Mega Health Camp



Community organisations & partners inaugurate the Camp, bringing specialist care closer

Local organisations, supporters and well-wishers came together for 'Viveka Brihath Aarogya Shivira', the Annual Mega Health Camp at Vivekananda Memorial Hospital, where 910 patients accessed free consultations and screenings across 19 medical specialties. Their collective effort strengthened our conviction that healthcare becomes more accessible when communities come together.

Eight community organisations and partners supported mobilisation and outreach, helping people access the camp. These included the Merchants Association, Jain Milan, Lions Clubs and Rotary Club in Saragur and H.D. Kote, Rajasthan Sangha, the Saragur and H.D. Kote Taluk Medical Association, and Shri Kshetra Dharmasthala Rural Development Project.

The camp was inaugurated by Dr. Ravikumar T., Taluk Health Officer, H.D. Kote, with Ms. Savitha Sulugodu, CEO–SVYM, presiding over the programme.



A consultation in progress at the Mega Health Camp

A total of 113 Master Health Check-up coupons were also issued, offering registered patients a 25% discount.

Local outreach and the participation of healthcare professionals helped connect people with specialised care, reflecting the complementary roles that community partners and health services play.

Yuva Payana 2026: Carrying Opportunity Forward





Students exchange ideas and explore aspirations through lively discussions at Yuva Payana

Yuva Payana, the annual gathering of Viveka Scholar Program scholars and alumni, brought together 300 participants in Mysuru this year to reflect, learn and look ahead together. A resolution made at the gathering has since translated into ₹29,150 in collective contributions—enabling the programme to support the education of another student.

What does moving forward mean beyond earning a degree or finding employment? Around the theme 'Reflect. Grow. Move Forward.', Yuva Payana's new two-day format gave scholars space to explore their aspirations, the choices ahead and the people travelling alongside them.

Across 15 teams, scholars connected speaker sessions with their own experiences through activities such as 'My Payana, Our Payana'. Conversations on finding purpose, resilience, career readiness and disciplined goal-setting encouraged them to consider how their abilities and values could shape their futures. Alumni sharing their transitions into employment added practical perspectives on uncertainty, preparation and learning along the way.

Mentoring brought different generations and experiences into these conversations. Founding volunteer Dr. Pushpalatha, Governing Body member Dr. Prashanth, Dr. Vishwas Rao—whose service included two years in Antarctica—and younger SVYM colleagues Dr. Vibha and Ms. Parvathi were among those accompanying the scholars. Senior students and alumni served as team leaders, helping participants share openly and learn from one another.





Students explore goals and choices with mentors in small-group sessions

The emphasis on contribution also took practical shape in Dr. M. R. Seetharam's '1–3–5' framework: one hour a week for physical fitness, three hours a month for arts or hobbies, and five days a year for volunteering—an invitation to connect personal growth with responsibility towards others.

The panel 'Why Someone Believed in Me' drew these reflections together through accounts of timely encouragement and guidance. Recognising the support behind their own progress also prompted scholars to consider what they could make possible for others. That intention continued beyond the gathering through their collective contribution towards another student's education and the growing volunteering contribution of Viveka Seva Dala to the programme.

Supported by well-wishers including Titan and Qualcomm, Yuva Payana reflects an approach to education that extends beyond financial assistance to relationships, confidence and shared responsibility. As Praveen Kumar Sayyaparaju, Deputy CEO & Education Sector Head, SVYM, reflects: "We came with our individual journeys. We return with a shared one."

Continuing Education After Class 10: Making the Next Step Possible for VTCL Students



VTCL students receive scholarships to continue their education beyond Class 10

The Viveka Tribal Centre for Learning's (VTCL) Continuing Education Program creates a connected pathway for students to continue their education after Class 10 through career counselling, scholarship support and academic collaborations. From 43 students in 2022–23, the programme now accompanies 159 scholars—91 girls and 68 boys—as they pursue further studies.

The growing number of VTCL students receiving scholarship support for continuing education meant that this year's two-day annual workshop needed a larger venue, moving from V-LEAD to the Ramakrishna Institute of Moral and Spiritual Education (RIMSE), Mysuru. Even there, only a few seats remained empty—a quietly encouraging sign of more students continuing their education after Class 10. All 159 students received scholarships for further studies across Karnataka.

The workshop offered space to reflect on their aspirations and prepare for the choices ahead. Sessions covered goal-setting, leadership, financial literacy, career guidance and digital wellness, alongside yoga and meditation.



Students reflect on their aspirations during the continuing education workshop

These conversations gained a personal dimension when alumni shared their experiences. Apritha B. M., now a nurse; Roshni, a lawyer; and Karthik, who works with the Forest Department, spoke about their journeys and the barriers they had overcome. Venkatesh, a VTCL alumnus pursuing Mechanical Engineering, shared how scholarship support had helped him continue his studies despite financial constraints.

Their journeys reflect the purpose of the programme: ensuring that support does not end when students leave school. Through financial assistance, guidance and continued engagement, VTCL and Titan work alongside scholars as they pursue further education, build independent futures and contribute to their communities.

Corneal Eye Care: A New Initiative to Prevent Avoidable Blindness





Launching the corneal care initiative with an eye health awareness session for VSOE students

An Infosys Foundation-supported initiative is helping make early screening for corneal disorders accessible to rural communities across Saragur, H.D. Kote, Nanjangud and Hunsur taluks. Through community- and school-based activities, 2,034 people have been screened across 22 locations, with 27 referred for further evaluation.

Early detection of corneal disorders can help prevent avoidable loss of vision. With support from Infosys Foundation, Vivekananda Memorial Hospital is implementing 'Commitment for Ending Preventable Blindness Due to Corneal Impairment' to identify people who need further evaluation and connect them with appropriate care.

The project was inaugurated on 3 September 2026 at the Viveka School of Excellence (VSOE), Saragur, in the presence of Mr. Mahesh Kumar, Senior Project Manager, Infosys Foundation. An eye health awareness and screening programme for students marked the occasion, making VSOE the first school to benefit from early screening under the project.

World Spinal Cord Injury Day: Strengthening Awareness Among Health Professionals in Madikeri





Lived experience informs spinal cord injury awareness among healthcare professionals and students in Madikeri

SVYM collaborated with the Kodagu Institute of Medical Sciences (KoIMS), the Department of Health, and the Department of Empowerment of Differently Abled and Senior Citizens (EDASC) to organise a district-level programme marking World Spinal Cord Injury Day and the Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan at the District Hospital,

Over 140 participants, including house surgeons, nursing students, hospital staff and government department personnel, took part in the programme. Dr. Lokesh A J, Dean and Director, KoIMS, inaugurated the event, which was presided over by Mr. Shankara K R, Project Director, CCST PwDs Program, SVYM. Chief guests included representatives from the hospital, KoIMS and district departments, as well as Mr. Saifuddin, a person with a spinal cord injury from Madapura, Kodagu.

The programme provided an opportunity to bring spinal cord injury awareness and substance use prevention into conversations among healthcare professionals, students and government personnel.

GenNext Kausalyan Begins Its Second Year with a Nursing Student Batch





GenNext Kausalyan's second year begins with nursing students building employability skills through hands-on learning

Supported by Infosys Foundation, GenNext Kausalyan helps young people build the skills and confidence needed for meaningful employment. Its second year began with a nursing student batch undertaking a 10-day employability skills programme.

Mr. N. Keshavamurthy, Programme Head, Akashvani, Mysuru, attended as Chief Guest, and Ms. Vanishree, Vice President – Strategic Large Deals, Infosys, as Guest of Honour. Mr. Manoj Sebastian, Head – Training, Research, Academics & Consultancy, SVYM, presided over the event. Dr. Rekha, Director – V-LEAD, joined students and other officials for the occasion.

First Beautician Training Batch Graduates at Vivekananda Rural Livelihood Centre (VRLC), Saidapur, Yadgir district



First batch of beautician trainees mark the completion of their course at VRLC, Saidapur

Completing their beautician training marked a step towards livelihood opportunities for participants at VRLC, Saidapur, Yadgir district. A certificate distribution programme brought them together to recognise

Dr. Dennis Chauhan, SVYM, presided over the programme, with Smt. Lalithamma, former President of the Saidapur Gram Panchayat, attending as Guest of Honour.

The batch reflects the growing reach of VRLC's training initiatives, creating opportunities for more young people across Karnataka to develop skills for employment and self-employment.

Rural Youth Ready to Meet the Growing Demand for Skilled Healthcare Professionals

Twenty-two candidates from the 10th batch of the General Duty Assistant (GDA) training programme at Vivekananda Memorial Hospital successfully completed their training and received certificates. Selected candidates also received offer letters from Apollo HomeCare, with a monthly salary of ₹23,000, marking an important step towards employment in the healthcare sector.



GDA trainees receive certificates on completing their healthcare training

Together for Development: Donor Partnerships

Titan Company Limited

Titan Company Limited is partnering with SVYM through the Future Teachers of India (FTI) Fellowship, a program focusing on teacher capacity building. The fellowship builds pedagogical and professional skills while nurturing reflective, socially committed educators.

Nihchal Israni Foundation

This partnership brings preventive care, screening, treatment, rehabilitation and palliative care closer to rural, semi-urban and tribal communities across nine taluks in Mysuru, Kodagu and Chamarajanagar districts.

WMG Foundation

WMG Foundation's partnership with SVYM spans healthcare and education. At Vivekananda Memorial Hospital (VMH), it seeks to strengthen affordable primary, emergency and surgical care for rural and tribal communities in H.D. Kote, Saragur, Nanjangud and Hunsur taluks, while addressing wider factors that affect health.

At Viveka Tribal Centre for Learning (VTCL), it supports quality, value-based education for tribal children through experiential learning, holistic development, pre-vocational training and career guidance.

Chem Trend Chemicals Co. Pvt. Ltd.

The partnership strengthens VMH's affordable primary and secondary healthcare for rural and tribal communities in H.D. Kote and Saragur, including surgical and emergency services, with particular attention to continuity of care for mothers and children.

ICICI Lombard General Insurance Co. Ltd.

The partnership aims to prevent avoidable blindness among vulnerable rural and tribal adults in H.D. Kote and Saragur through eye-screening camps, timely referrals and cataract surgeries, supporting their independence and quality of life.

Lowe's India Pvt. Ltd.

In Brahmagiri Hadi, the partnership will help establish a women-led Rural Social Business Unit (RSBU), creating livelihood opportunities through local agricultural and forest-based products while promoting entrepreneurship and community ownership. A community-managed seed bank will help preserve seeds and improve access to quality planting material.

Tata Coffee Limited

The partnership aims to help 800 rural and tribal farmers adopt sustainable millet-based agriculture through seeds, improved farming practices and access to government schemes and irrigation. Farmer collectives and group enterprises will also help strengthen livelihoods.

Supporting STEM Education at Viveka PU College

Through partnerships with Om Prakash and Vimal Abbhi Daan Punya Trust and Sitero Solutions India Private Limited, SVYM supports students from underprivileged backgrounds through the Viveka Scholar Program. Support includes financial assistance for STEM education, preparation for competitive entrance exams and employability, alongside regular parent engagement.

McAfee Software (India) Private Limited

The partnership aims to strengthen rural and tribal women's livelihoods through climate-resilient millet cultivation and women-led enterprises. Support spans farming practices, irrigation and technical training, alongside self-help groups, millet processing, value addition and market linkages.

Textron

The Nourish TB project supports tribal and slum communities in Mysuru and Bengaluru districts during TB treatment through nutrition kits, nutritional assessments, awareness sessions, counselling and treatment adherence follow-ups.

Taiwan Chamber of Commerce in India

The partnership will strengthen surgical care for rural and tribal communities through a new vessel-sealing and cutting device at Vivekananda Memorial Hospital (VMH). The equipment will help improve surgical safety, reduce procedure time and blood loss, and expand access to major surgeries.

Universal Sompo General Insurance Ltd.

The partnership aims to prevent avoidable blindness and restore vision among underserved rural, semi-urban and tribal communities through screening camps and cataract surgeries at Vivekananda Memorial Hospital.

Asha for Education

The partnership supports holistic education at Viveka Tribal Centre for Learning through arts, sports, experiential learning and pre-vocational training, alongside counselling and career guidance.

Trellix

The partnership aims to create healthier, more engaging learning environments by refurbishing Anganwadis in remote areas of Male Mahadeshwara Hills (MM Hills), Chamarajanagar district.

It also supports the renovation of rural healthcare spaces to make services safer, more accessible and patient-centred, while strengthening clinical, rehabilitation and counselling services and enabling modern diagnostics, telemedicine and digital health systems.

Adobe Community Fund

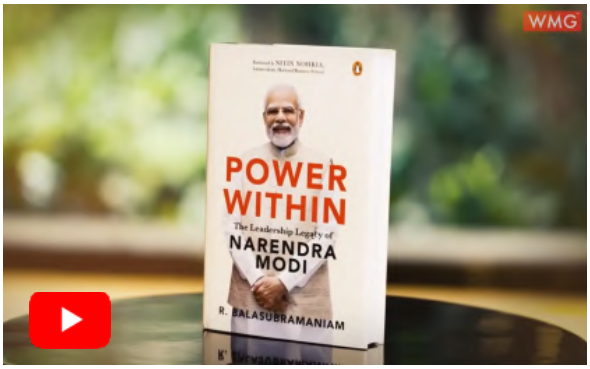
The partnership supports quality, value-based education for tribal children at Viveka Tribal Centre for Learning (VTCL), Hosahalli, H.D. Kote taluk. Experiential learning, pre-vocational training, extracurricular activities and career guidance support their holistic development and preparation for life beyond Class 10.

PayPal India Private Limited

In Hoskote taluk, the partnership supports women's livelihoods through mushroom cultivation, value-added dairy products, livestock-based activities and vocational training, expanding opportunities for employment and entrepreneurship.

Across Mysuru, Yadgir and Raichur districts, it supports women and youth from marginalised communities through skills development and women-led rural social businesses, with a focus on value-added agricultural and forest-based products and stronger market linkages.

Watch: SVYM in Action



Book launch: Dr. Balasubramaniam's 'Power Within: The Leadership Legacy of Narendra Modi'

Dr. Balu reflects on leadership as a practice, viewed through Indic and Western perspectives.

Strengthening Maternal-Newborn Care at VMH with Support from Rotary

Supporting safer pregnancies, institutional deliveries and newborn care for women in rural and tribal communities.





Meet the Talented Girl Students from the Viveka Chethana Batch at VTCL

Hear the students share their aspirations, experiences and what this opportunity means to them.

When the Heart to Care Meets the Will to do Better | SVYM Palliative Care Program 2026

See how compassion shapes better palliative care for patients and families.



Join SVYM - Job Openings

Position	No. of Vacancies	Sector	Department	Qualification	Location
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Facilitator	1	Education	School Education Program	Any graduate	Gauribidanur
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Co-ordinator	1	OMA	HR	Any Post Graduate/MSW/ MDM	Saragur
Field Mobiliser	1	SEEP	SEEP	PUC/Graduate	Kenchanahalli

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INR 1,500 towards medical care for poor patient of Vivekananda Memorial Hospital

INR 46,000 to support residential education for one tribal child in VTCL for 1 year

INR 16, 000 towards cost of providing one person with Palliative Care for an year

Donate towards other development activities of SVYM

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