



UWBe Insights

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER | OCT - DEC 2025

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Running for a cause: UWBe joins the TCS World 10K Bengaluru

As your **Philanthropy Partner**, United Way Bengaluru (UWBe) provides a trusted platform for runners, corporates, institutions and NGOs to come together.

NGOs Gain visibility, credibility, and critical funding	Individual Fundraisers Ordinary citizens become champions for their chosen causes	Corporates Engage employees through team runs, fundraising, and volunteering	Institutions Mobilize students / running groups / RWAs to support impactful social initiatives
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On 12th December, United Way Bengaluru hosted an NGO meet with 55 NGO Partners, alongside Procam International, where we kicked off our association as the **Philanthropy Partner for the TCS World 10K Bengaluru 2026**.

The event explored how we can build a culture of giving in Bengaluru, and how such events can enable efficient and sustainable philanthropy platforms.

- Timed 10K**
For competitive runners
- Majja Run**
Fun run for all ages
- Champions with Disability**
Inclusive participation
- Senior Citizens' Run**
Celebrating wisdom and experience



We invite you to register yourself as an NGO, individual fundraiser, or corporate, on this platform - simply visit the link alongside to register & stay tuned on updates!

tcsw10kuwbe.org



EDUCATION FOR ALL



Widespread early childhood education efforts

Our work in Anganwadi Centres has spread across many parts of the country, and the focus has been on the capacity building of Anganwadi workers (AWWs), focusing on training the driving force behind early childhood education across the country.

Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) training sessions have been conducted in parts of **Bengaluru Urban, Hubballi-Dharwad**, and for the first time in **Palghar District of Maharashtra**.

These efforts are made possible by the support of partners including **Flowserve, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Applied Materials & HCL Foundation**.



Our team met the Mysore DC and CEO to discuss the completed projects and sign an MoU for the upcoming Anganwadi renovations.



A step towards curiosity & innovation

The first spark learning centres have been inaugurated this quarter, including one at the Police Public School in Bengaluru, and another in Raichur district, both with enthusiastic support from **GE Aerospace**.





10,000 Percolation Wells towards One Billion Drops

This quarter marked the **completion of ten thousand percolation wells constructed** since the 2019 launch of our One Billion Drops (OBD) campaign!



The wells have been constructed by members of the **Bovi community**, well-diggers by profession who bring their specialized skills to work on earth excavation, canal digging, and soil and water conservation.

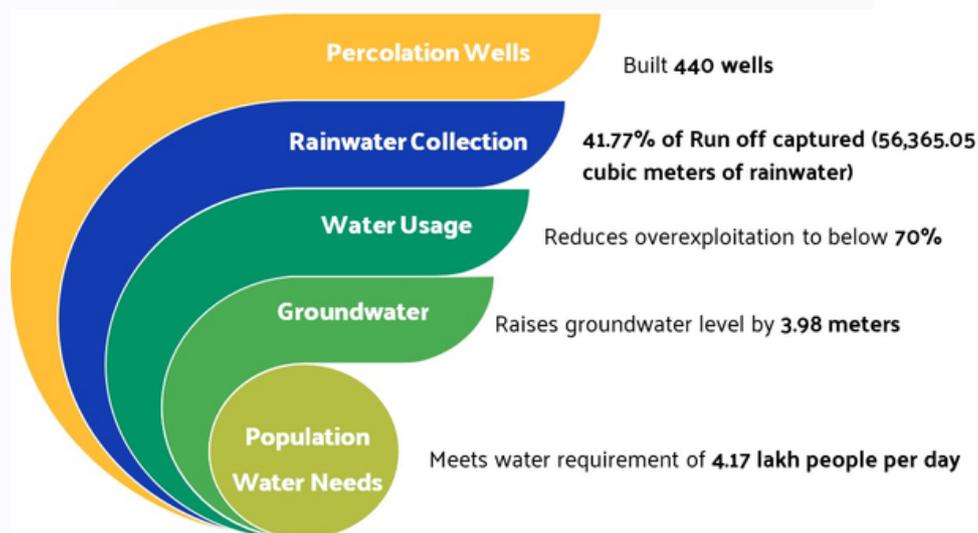
Previously, these communities were constantly on the move in search of work, but since their involvement with our OBD campaign, 120 families have found stability and settled in Bovipalya, Sarjapura.

The One Billion Drops campaign has received numerous awards and recognitions for its contribution towards combating Bengaluru's water crisis, most recently receiving the 1st Runner Up in Doing Good for Bharat.



There was an **impact assessment** conducted at Lalbagh Botanical Garden where we have constructed 440 percolation wells, finding tangible impacts in the form of rainwater runoff collection & groundwater level increase.

Mr Muniraju, a well digger from the Bovi community, accepts the 2025 SABERA award in Delhi for the OBD campaign





INTEGRATED RURAL DEVELOPMENT



Innovative Ways We Make Education Accessible in Rural Areas

In **Wafgaon, Pune**, students travel around 5km from their homes in tribal hamlets to their schools. This has led to them spending over an hour to 90 minutes walking each way, creating a physical challenge and eating into their days. In some areas, this also includes them walking on darker streets with safety concerns.

Recent support by **Northern Trust** has set up solar lights along some of these paths, improving the safety for children and adults alike to travel from their communities into nearby villages.



Additionally, 100 bicycles have been distributed to the students, who now ride to school together, reaching their classes with time and energy saved on a daily basis. This was done with the support of **Marvell Technology**.



In Chintamani, **Chikkaballapura district of Karnataka**, following our intervention with **Novo Nordisk** to develop Yagavkote Government High School, it is now in the process of getting recognition as a KPS (Karnataka Public School).



Following a defense physical training program for youth in **Panchmahal, Gujarat**, 3 of the youth we work with have been selected as Agniveers. They are excited about this opportunity, possible with the support of partner **GE Vernova**.



GendHer Training

Our flagship campaign GendHer is a life-skills-based approach to **gender sensitivity**, with a specific focus on **reproductive health**. It trains teachers as GendHer champions, to in turn empower students with knowledge on **reproductive health & gender sensitivity and inclusion**.

GendHer program highlights from this quarter



Pillars of the GendHer campaign



Improved knowledge & attitudes leading to **behaviour change**.



Structured **capacity building** of teacher champions



Creating & providing **resources & facilities** of teacher champions



Govt advocacy & alignment for scaling & consistency



20 School Teachers in Anekal attend a GendHer training, supported by **AUMOVIO**

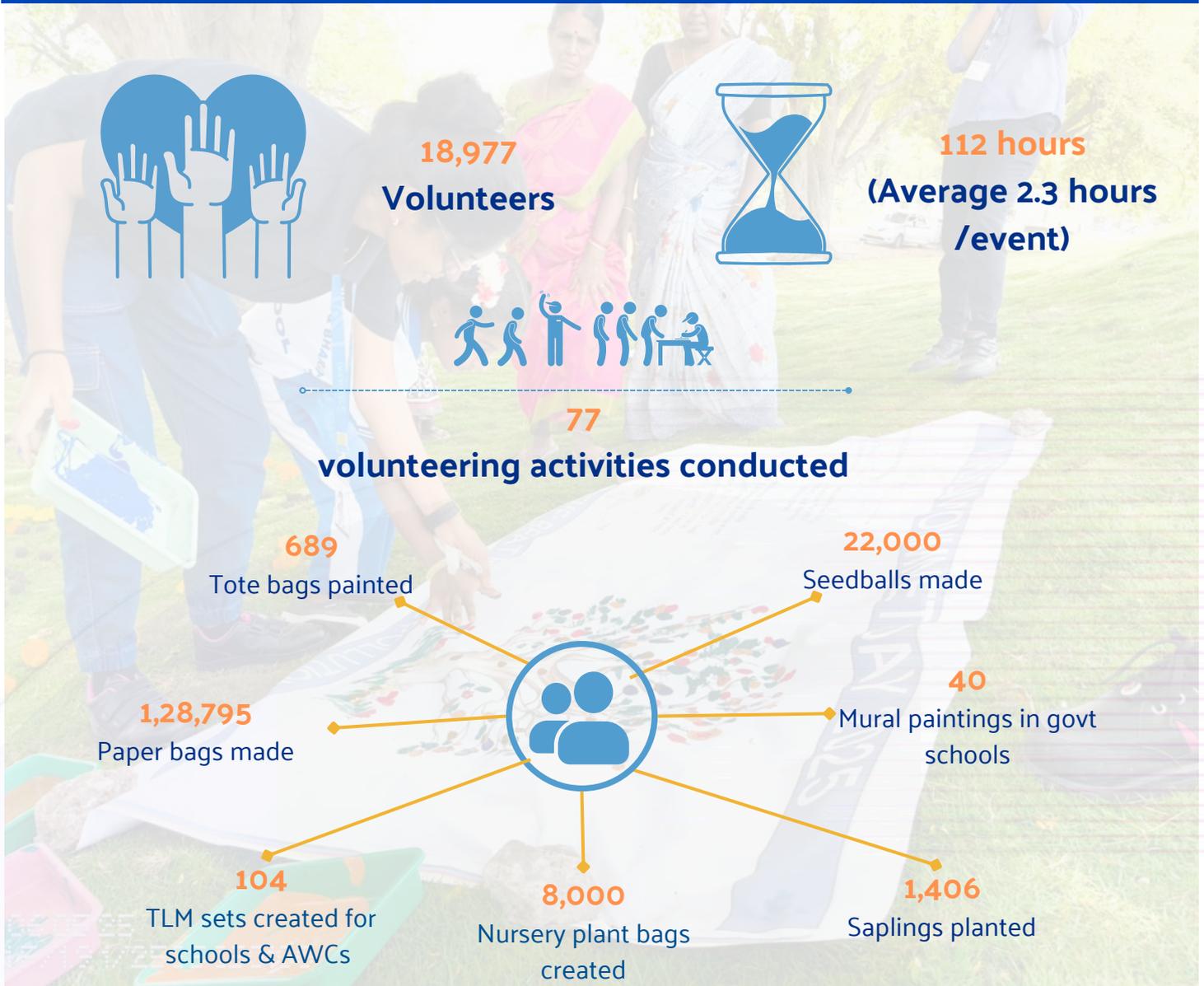


10,000 hygiene kits are being distributed across Bengaluru city & Hoskote taluk, supported by **Broadcom**



45 Anganwadi teachers attended GendHer training sessions, supported by **HCL Foundation**

Aligning Action with Impact: Our Volunteering & ESG Journey



Volunteers from Corporate Partners (Oct-Dec '25)

AMD
Applied Materials
Deloitte
Delta
GE Aerospace
GE Healthcare
GE Vernova
Marvell

Microsoft
PwC
SanDisk
Swiss Re
Target
Ujjivan SFB
Wells Fargo
Zebra



Champion of Change

Rachel joined United Way Bengaluru right after she completed her Masters in Social Work. Working in a small team which handled planning volunteering activities, she learned a lot, and found herself planning many activities even virtually during the Covid pandemic. As she was reliable, and became experienced at working with various corporate partners, she then transitioned into the corporate partnership team.

In 2025, after a stint of working in different spaces, Rachel returned to the UWBe team. Now, she has expanded her experience and works with managing NGO partnerships, currently managing 50+ different partners. She recently organized a day of over 8 hours with over 14,000 volunteers, across multiple locations successfully.

Rachel's team finds her to be a motivating, patient leader, as they feel consistently inspired and trusted to grow and improve. She is supportive and approachable, and creates a comfortable environment to work in. Outside of work, Rachel hopes to spend her time volunteering to counsel children in need, as well as finding creative outlets through painting and baking.



Rachel Nathasha
Deloitte NGO Partnerships

Recognition of our Senior Leadership

We are honoured to share that our CEO [Rajesh Krishnan](#) was recognised at the 4th Edition BW Disrupt Social Impact Awards 2025.

Rajesh's vision has always reminded us that social impact is not about quick wins, but about building systems, nurturing trust, and ensuring that progress reaches those who need it most.

This award is a testament to a leadership style that listens before it leads, empowers teams to think boldly, and keeps humanity at the core of innovation





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जिल्हा परिषद आणि युनायटेड वेमध्ये करार

राजगुरुनगर, दि. ७ (प्रतिनिधी) - संपूर्ण पुणे जिल्ह्याच्या सर्वांगीण आणि शाश्वत ग्रामीण विकासाला नवीन गती देण्यासाठी आज (दि. ७) पुणे जिल्हा परिषद आणि युनायटेड वे बॅंगळुरू यांच्यात सामंजस्य करार करण्यात आला. या करारामुळे विविध तालुक्यांमधील विकासकामांना नवे बळ आणि दिशा मिळणार आहे.

युनायटेड वे बॅंगळुरू गेल्या पाच वर्षांपासून राजगुरुनगरसह पुणे जिल्ह्यातील ग्रामीण भागात एकात्मिक विकासाच्या दृष्टीने विविध उपक्रम राबवत आहे. या उपक्रमांमध्ये पाणी संवर्धन, वृक्षारोपण, शिक्षण व उपजीविका संघर्षाची निर्मिती, स्वच्छता व आरोग्य सुविधा तसेच अक्षय ऊर्जे

चा वापर या क्षेत्राचा समावेश आहे. या नव्या भागीदारीद्वारे दोन्ही संस्था ग्रामीण भागातील नागरिकांना आवश्यक सेवा अधिक प्रभावोपणे उपलब्ध करून देण्यासाठी, तसेच स्थानिक रोजगार निर्मिती, महिलांच्या सक्षमीकरणासाठी आणि शाश्वत विकासाच्या उद्दिष्टांसाठी संयुक्तरीत्या काम करतील.

या सामंजस्य करारामुळे पुणे जिल्हा आत्मनिर्भर, सशक्त आणि प्रगत ग्रामीण विकासाच्या दिशेने वाटचाल करेल, असा विश्वास उपस्थित मान्यवरांनी व्यक्त केला. या प्रसंगी मुख्य कार्यकारी अधिकारी, जिल्हा परिषद पुणे गजानन पाटील तसेच युनायटेड वे बॅंगळुरूचे मुख्य कार्यकारी अधिकारी राजेश क्रिष्णन, आणि अधिकारी उपस्थित होते.

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APN NEWS

United Way Bengaluru's One Billion Drops Campaign Wins SABERA Awards 2025 in Environment & Consumption Category

by 30 December 2025



United Way Bengaluru's flagship water stewardship initiative, One Billion Drops (OBD), has been honoured with the SABERA Awards 2025 in the Environment & Consumption category, reaffirming its leadership in driving sustainable water conservation through collective action.

The SABERA Awards, recognised as South Asia's most credible initiatives for brand-building, reputation management, and purpose-led communication, celebrate initiatives that create meaningful social and environmental impact while demonstrating excellence in strategy and execution.

The One Billion Drops campaign was recognised for its sustained, scalable, and collaborative approach to addressing India's growing water crisis. By mobilising corporates, communities, government bodies, and civil society, the campaign has focused on water conservation, rejuvenation of water bodies, groundwater recharge, and responsible water consumption, creating measurable impact across urban and rural landscapes.

The award was received by Mr. Radhakrishna Pradeep, Senior Manager - Climate Action & Partnerships, United Way Bengaluru, along with Mr. Muniraju, a well-digger from the Bovi community and a resident of Govvalya, Karnataka. Today, nearly 120 families from the community are engaged with the initiative. With over 10,000 rainwater harvesting wells created in the city of Bengaluru, One Billion Drops has emerged as a milestone initiative contributing to India's journey towards a Viksit Bharat.

Since its inception, the campaign has enabled the harvesting, replenishment, and conservation of millions of litres of water annually, while also building awareness around water-positive practices

DH

HOPE SPRINGS

Lalbagh percolation wells lift groundwater levels

DH SPECIAL

SNEHA RAMESH
BENGALURU, DHNS

The impact of percolation wells dug at Lalbagh is being felt significantly now. A long-term study has shown that groundwater levels in Lalbagh have increased by close to four metres since 2021 when work on percolation wells began.

In Lalbagh, close to 440 percolation wells have been dug by United Way of Bengaluru (UWBe), a non-profit organisation, to capture runoff water, impacting the ground water levels directly.

"Percolation wells have been able to collect close to 56,365 cubic metres of runoff rainwater which has percolated into the water table, improving the water levels," said Sriram Ananthanarayanan, director, new initiatives and



Percolation wells in Lalbagh.
DH FILE PHOTO

impact, UWBe.

As a result of the improvement in groundwater levels, the area which was once categorised as 'over exploited' with 103% extraction of groundwater, has now moved to 'safe' levels with just 64% groundwater extraction.

While percolation wells have played a major factor in improving groundwater levels, other natural factors may have also had some impact on the groundwa-

ter levels, representatives from UWBe maintained.

Horticulture department officials said many borewells that had dried up have come back to life and dependence on piped water has reduced significantly.

"The health of many deep rooted trees and perennial trees has also improved. Need for sprinklers has come down drastically and now they are mostly used only in summer," said M Jagadeesh, joint director, Lalbagh Botanical Garden.

Apart from improving groundwater levels, percolation wells have helped in many other ways including preventing of floods.

"During rains, water going out of Lalbagh would flood surrounding areas. Now, that close to 40% of the runoff water is collected in percolation wells, water going outside has reduced, preventing floods," Ananthanarayanan said.

• Lalbagh, Page 6

United Way Bengaluru's 'spark' campaign boosts experiential and creativity-centered

Bengaluru (Sources) : United Way Bengaluru with financial support from GE Aerospace in India (GE India Industrial Pvt Ltd (GEIIPIL)) has launched 'spark', a campaign focusing on inculcating experiential teaching and learning Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics (STEAM) in the classrooms as a flagship campaign under the Integrated School Development Programme (ISDP) at Police Public School, Bengaluru.

The spark campaign is based on the principle that 'visual and experiential' learning in classrooms increases conceptual understanding and retention of concepts among students.

As part of the campaign, a spark Learning Centre is set up with MINIATURE WORKING MODELS of all STEAM related concepts from 6th to 10th grade, which the teachers can take to their classrooms and use



for demonstrations while teaching and allow students to experience the concepts by doing the experiments themselves inside the classroom. Consistent use of this method has a huge potential to foster creativity,

innovation and enhance the retention of concepts among the students.

Along with the spark Learning Centre, 'Curiosity Adda', an open innovation park that invites children to step outside the classroom and experience life-size models of science, math and technology concepts while they also get an opportunity to try out a few concepts integrating fun and learning. This innovative park focuses on creating curiosity among the children and encourages them to ask questions and build better understanding.

"spark" reflects our vision of making learning go beyond textbooks and making classroom teaching and learning a JOYFUL experience. We are turning science into a hands-on experience through classroom programs and open learning spaces, helping children learn by doing, exploring, and imagining" - Rajesh Krishnan, CEO, United Way Bengaluru.



ABOUT US

United Way Bengaluru (UWBe) is a part of United Way Worldwide, the largest NGO network of over 1,100 chapters in 36 countries. Since 2008, UWBe has been dedicated to working in underserved locations and marginalized communities. Over 17 years, the organization's reach extended to 17 states, with a special focus on remote areas and aspirational districts. United Way Bengaluru works in five key areas: Climate Action, Education for All, Integrated Rural Development, Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI) and Volunteering. Aligned with its mission, the organization brings together unified efforts from CSR partners, civic bodies and local communities to work collaboratively towards solutions. The organization carries a global image with a 'local heart' committed to creating meaningful change in the lives of the local communities.

VISION



United Way Bengaluru envisions a world where all individuals and families achieve their human potential through education, income stability, and healthy lives.

MISSION



United Way Bengaluru seeks to improve lives by mobilizing the caring power of communities around the world to advance the common good.



RURAL RISING



Flagship Campaigns

United Way Bengaluru

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