



**THE CIVIC RESPONSE
TIMES**

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EDITOR'S NOTE

Recently CRT^ conducted a one-week long summer program called Youth Environment and Sustainability at the UWC, Mahindra College (you will read more about it in this issue). During a debate around technology in agriculture – genetic modification of seeds in particular – one of the 14-year old students asked “would you rather have seeds that grow in a specific soil or soil that can sustain many types of seeds?” The class moved on to discuss other matters and everyone took their own stance with regards to genetic modification. The question has remained with us for the reason that it resonates perfectly with Solid Waste Management (SWM) – do we design a fitting treatment technology for a flawed collection system, or fix our collection system to support many kinds of treatment technologies (based on our needs, resources and preferences).

We could not be more certain that door-to-door collection of three-way segregated waste needs to become common practice in Aurangabad now.

Majhi City Taka-Tak Children take Charge

Right from the start of the Majhi City Taka-Tak campaign, schools and school students have been enthusiastic participants, promoters, well-wishers and supporters for us. Our launch event in January 2016 saw participation from over 20 schools across the city.

With the summer vacations coming to an end, the past two month has seen an explosion of children's participation in the campaign. There have been four rallies and two wall painting events. With the youngest members of the city displaying such belonging and responsibility towards it, the future of Aurangabad is looking extremely vibrant.

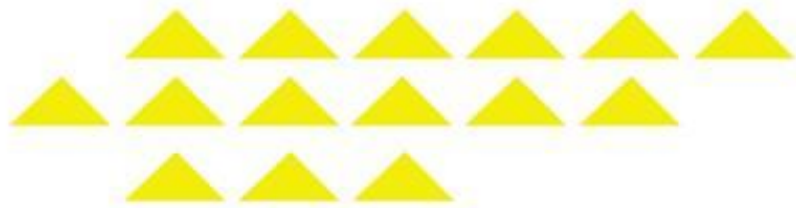


Majhi City Taka-Tak Data-driven Systems

The MCTT campaign has spread to ~ 40 wards across the city i.e., 40 jawans, 500+ labourers and roughly one lakh families. During this work we have witnessed an administrative restructuring of Aurangabad from 6 to 9 zones, the addition of Satara Deolai areas to the city (taking the number of election wards to 115), and all associated changes within the sanitation department.

The fact that the AMC jawans and safai karmcharis have kept the system going through these changes is truly creditable. We are now working with these 40 wards to create digitized route maps, ward maps and ward profiles based on first hand data collected by our team. This depth of data collection, compilation and analysis can help us create a truly resilient and adaptive system.





Youth Environment & Sustainability @ UWC Mahindra College



The eight-day long Youth, Environment and Sustainability summer program at UWC Mahindra College, facilitated by CRT[^], brought together thirty young participants from across the country and the world to engage with complex questions of development and conflict that are woven through the fabric of human development and the environment. Situated amidst a world biodiversity hotspot outside the city of Pune, UWC Mahindra College offered a perfect venue for students to submerge themselves in these subjects.

The course provided knowledge, experience, skill and inspiration through interactive discussions, field trips and workshops conducted by a wide range of individuals - activists, entrepreneurs, practitioners and academicians.

Stay tuned for updates from the other summer programs.



Zero Waste Hero: Dr. Vinaya Bhagwat



Our this month's Zero Waste Hero is :

Dr. Vinaya Bhagwat

Leading a dual life as a paediatrician in Aurangabad and pursuing Medicine in the USA, Dr. Bhagwat is one of the first promoters of house-hold level waste management in Aurangabad.

She attended a lecture on Solid Waste Management 17 years ago and has since then been managing her own waste at home. She has installed a biogas plant for her household organic waste and recycles most of the dry waste by giving it to a local waste-picker. She owes her gratitude to her helpers Anna Sonawane and Chandrakant Wahul for helping her maintain the biogas plant. "I don't need to buy LPG cylinder for household needs anymore. Waste to energy is a reality", Dr. Bhagwat said.

Her house with its waste-management and gardening experiments is our go-to place for new-comers and enthusiast. She has been a great support and a source of knowledge to CRT.



CRT[^]

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