

PUNE KNOWLEDGE CLUSTER

Established by the Office of The Principal Scientific Adviser, to the GoI under The City Knowledge & Innovation Cluster Initiative (CKIC), the Pune Knowledge Cluster aims to bring together Academic Institutions, R&D organizations, Industries, NGOs, Civic Bodies, Local & State governments to collectively work for the betterment of Pune City by leveraging the science & technology capabilities of its partner organizations.

FROM THE PKC DESK

Greetings, dear readers!

We are back with the next issue of PEAKS – PKC's Quarterly Newsletter!

In this issue, we would like to highlight key milestones from PKC's journey for the months of **October 2023 to January 2024**. The **Cover Story** and **Sneak Peak** sections highlight key projects from the PKC verticals, while the section - **In Conversation** introduces readers to one of PKC's partner organizations. Through the **Team Connect** section, we would like to showcase our diverse team who helps realize PKC's vision.

This issue will also give an overview of the **Events, Citizen-Centric Talks and Collaborations** that PKC has organized and fostered within the last quarter.

Happy reading!



Issue available at
<https://www.pkc.org.in/resources/newsletter/>
Or Scan the QR Code

IN THIS ISSUE



COVER STORY	04
IN CONVERSATION	08
SNEAK PEAK	12
NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL EVENTS	14
CITIZEN CENTRIC TALKS	18
COLLABORATIONS	19
AUDIENCE CONNECT	20
TEAM CONNECT	21

COVER STORY



Citizen Science Programs at PKC: Enabling Science Through Citizens

Data is integral to evidence-based decision making and solving community level problems. Citizen Science has the ability to link science with social needs and encourage scientific curiosity. It allows for a collaborative approach to collect, organize and analyse scientific data which then can be used for research and policy making.

PKC's Big Data and AI vertical aims at not only providing data-driven solutions to city and regional level problems, but also demonstrates the advantages of bringing quantitative data-based approaches to address community-level problems. The vertical by itself is a source of new ideas and projects with applications in health, environment, astronomy and education. One of the most interesting and

useful applications of the big data technology is to collect and analyse huge amount of data with the help of citizens. This not only conserves the bandwidth of scientists and experts but also helps in generating interest and curiosity across various scientific areas.

Elaborating more about the relevance of this approach, popularly known as 'citizen science', Prof. Ajit Kembhavi, Founder of PKC says, "When PKC was conceptualized, we considered involving citizens in data collection for several projects that were being formulated. However, we wanted to go beyond the traditional way and use modern technology. Today, our mantra is to use the highest possible technology that would bring comfort and assistance to the citizens while collecting the data. This will not only help us in building large databases quickly, but also educate the citizens in Big Data and AI technology. Further, the datasets analysed by a large number of citizens can also be instrumental for designing useful AI algorithms."

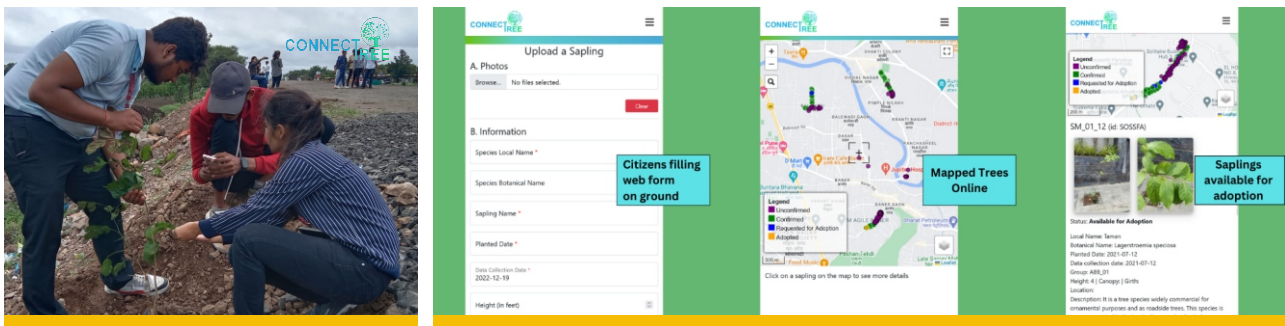
With this aim in mind, PKC implements Citizen Science Programs using high- end and scalable technologies that are helpful in compiling large datasets. Depending upon the complexity and gravity of the data, citizens are either involved in the data collection alone, or also in the analysis; and are provided with virtual or on-ground training that empowers them with the relevant knowledge and tools to work with the data. In this manner, citizens can directly contribute towards PKC's vision.

Currently, PKC has two flagship Citizen Science Programs: ConneCTree and One Million Galaxies.

Through the ConneCTree program, citizens can help in monitoring sapling growth, survival and biodiversity in the city. Talking more about this, Ms. Anita Kane, Senior Advisor, Environment and Sustainability at PKC says, "Saplings planted through the monsoon plantation drives need to be nurtured well, especially in the urban environment. With this thought in mind, the ConneCTree program has been conceptualized to promote a participatory approach in which citizens as well as interested stakeholders can monitor the growth of saplings and contribute towards maintaining as well as enhancing biodiversity and green cover in a particular region."

In order to ensure an inclusive approach, PKC collaborates with civic bodies such as Pimpri Chinchwad Municipal Corporation (PCMC) and Pune Smart City for this initiative. Mr. Ashok Ghorpade, Chief Garden Superintendent of PCMC says, "According to Maharashtra (urban areas) Protection and Preservation of Trees Act, 1975, there is a provision to adopt and nurture trees by Citizens and Government Bodies, which is in line with PKC's ConneCTree program; and we are glad to collaborate with them for monitoring the saplings planted through our garden department."

Dr. Sanjay Kolte, CEO, Pune Smart City adds "PKC's "ConneCTree" program has tremendous synergy with the plantation initiatives of Pune Smart City, especially in the Aundh-Baner-Balewadi regions. The community engagement aspect of this program is an important step in deepening the connection between the smart city and the citizens; as well as between the environment and the citizens."



By enrolling in this program, citizens can 'adopt' a sapling through geo-tagging, which allows all the data related to that sapling to be recorded on an AI-enabled, web-based platform developed in-house by PKC. On-ground training regarding data collection and usage of the platform is provided by the PKC team as per requirement.

PKC routinely collaborates with NGOs as well as colleges to engage residents and build capacity amongst students in this program.

Currently two NGOs and three colleges have been onboarded for data collection and over 600 saplings have been mapped on the platform. Along with this, PKC is also piloting the use of drones for data collection, especially for large-scale plantations undertaken by PCMC.

PKC's second citizen science program - One Million Galaxies, lies on the other end of the spectrum,

“It has been a nice experience to not only contribute towards planting of the trees, but also have an opportunity to track their growth in the future, through the ConnectTree platform.”, says a student of MIT-ADT who recently took part in ‘Mohim Kalpavriksha’ – a Tree Plantation drive jointly organized by MIT-ADT University together with Root Skills; where the PKC team sensitized all participants regarding the usage and benefits of the ConnectTree platform.

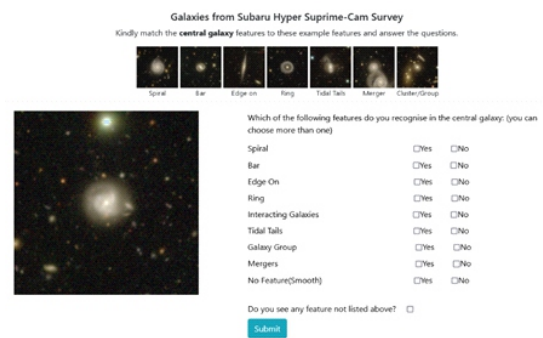
Mr. Sikandar Ghodke, a senior citizen associated with Environment Conservation Association (ECA) says, “Being a shepherd and butcher by profession, I have always felt strongly about invasive species that soak up all the ground water and hamper the healthy growth of native species. Being a part of a program such as ConnectTree helps me in my aim towards making the country free of ‘white-top weed’ which is not only invasive but also has adverse effects on cattle grazing.”

where one can go from the earth to the sky and help astronomers gain important information regarding various galaxies.



This program has been conceptualized together with experts from the Inter-University Center for Astronomy and Astrophysics (IUCAA), Pune and the Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA), Bengaluru; and is aimed towards finding structures like spiral arms, bars and rings in galaxies. Such structures taken together constitute the morphology of galaxies and provide important insights in the formations of galaxies and their subsequent change with time, due to internal processes as well as through interactions and collisions with other galaxies.

The program focuses on analysing the features of the galaxy images taken by the Subaru Telescope located in Hawaii. Dr. Sudhanshu Barway, Associate Professor at IIA explains the rationale behind this, “We opted to showcase these particular images, due to the availability of an extensive dataset, which would provide us with the deepest exposure capable of capturing even the faintest features within galaxies. Examining these galaxies promises to unveil valuable nuances that will enhance our understanding of their formation and evolution.”



In order to collect and store information gathered by the citizens, PKC has built an in-house web-based platform, where citizens can enrol to join this program. Enrolled citizens are provided with an online training which empowers them with the necessary information required for identifying galaxy features.

Mr. Atharva Pathak, software engineer at PKC, talks about the backend process involved in building this platform. “We started the project by taking feedback from amateur astronomers scattered around the country. Based upon their inputs we optimized the nature of the questions

and the visual features that are needed to be displayed at any given time, on the webpage. We have designed the mechanism in such a way that only a particular number of responses are registered per galaxy so that citizens' efforts are optimally utilised."

Currently, over 1600 citizens have been enrolled on the platform, which include individuals from all walks of life. School students, homemakers as well as senior citizens are a part of this program.

"As they say, age is just a number! Even though I am 72 years old, my passion for astronomy has not faded at all. Being a part of the One Million Galaxies program has been a fantastic experience for me as it provides me with an avenue to keep learning new things about the galaxies and contribute towards the knowledge from the comfort of my home or wherever I am!" says Dr. Amod Rairikar, who has been a part of this program since the past two years.

Ms. Chhaya Sawant, who retired from her bank job a few years ago and is now pursuing her lifelong passion for writing as well as contributing to the housing society's routine work says, *"Even though I do not have any background in science, this platform provides me with an avenue to utilize my time in an innovative and sustainable manner, while also enhancing my knowledge and observation skills."*

"Astronomy being my favourite topic, learning more about spiral galaxies through this program has been a very enjoyable and informative exercise for me!", says Ms. Sanvi Shanbag, a student of the Lexicon International School, Wagholi, Pune, who might be the youngest citizen scientist associated with this program.

Talking about the way forward for both the citizen science programs, Dr. Disha Sawant, Program Manager at the Big Data & AI and Sustainability & Environment verticals at PKC says, "The biggest, yet most exciting challenge that awaits us is the scalability and diversification of these projects. We wish to involve other scientific datasets beyond astronomy where the framework to build a user-friendly platform could be presented openly in the public domain. The vision is also to utilize the citizen's vigilance for monitoring healthy biodiversity and sustainability in the region not just with mapping trees, but also with data collection on waste management, public toilets, bus-stops, etc. in the future; and reward them with better urban planning, policies and governance."

Prof. Kembhavi concludes, "For these different citizen science themes to materialize, we depend upon citizen groups, as well as interested stakeholders approaching us with problems that they have and also provide us with the certain amount of help in terms of human resources. With that in place, we can always initiate a very useful and exciting program having multi-dimensional results!"



IN CONVERSATION

MR. TUSHAR LOWALEKAR

Founding Member & Chief Business Officer, BiofuelCircle

Can you share a brief history of the conceptualization and formation of BiofuelCircle?

BiofuelCircle Private Limited is founded in 2020, and is India's first and one-of-its-kind digital platform for biomass and biofuels.

To go back to the history of the conceptualization, however, one must know a little about the background of the cofounders. Our founding team consists of four members, two of whom are primary cofounders: Mr. Suhas Baxi and Mr. Ashwin Save. Mr. Baxi comes from a background of heating industry and has also worked as a CEO of a commodity-trading platform, where he was succeeded by Mr. Save, whose own background was in oil trading. These past backgrounds helped them in understanding of the core problems in the biofuel sector. Additionally, Mr. Baxi during his professional journey has also seen the challenges of the biofuel industry from a technological perspective which helped him in building the platform. The other two members, including myself and Mr. Jacob Joseph, joined them in subsequent time.

The primary factor driving the conceptualization of BiofuelCircle was an observation that although the Biofuel sector is becoming increasingly relevant nowadays, there is lack of organization and structured approach towards problem-solving. We realized that one way to solve this problem was by bringing in digitization and a market-place

In this issue of PEAKS, we are ***In Conversation*** with **Mr. Tushar Lowalekar**, Founding Member & Chief Business Officer, BiofuelCircle. With a background in Finance and Banking, Tushar has worked with both multinational as well as Indian banks. He has spent a considerable amount of time with education and consumer-focused start-ups, and is driven by a deep interest in technology, sustainability & climate change.

mechanism to create opportunities that are accessible to everyone.

BiofuelCircle, also enables the concept of circularity in nature. What comes from the farm, goes back to the farm- especially in the gaseous and liquid biofuel sector. For example, a biogas plant that buys field stock on the platform can also sell the digested product through the platform, which can be used as biofertilizers by the farmers.

Today we have an employee strength of around 50, and regional offices in Delhi, Ahmedabad and Chennai, along with our headquarters in Pune. Apart from this, we also have a strong foothold in Punjab and Uttar Pradesh.

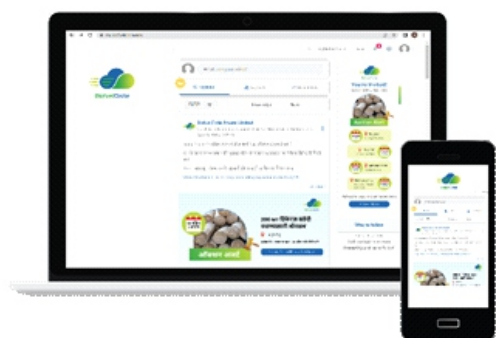
What are the main offerings of BiofuelCircle?

BiofuelCircle is primarily a digital platform for Biomass and Biofuels. We have three main offerings that are available through the web/the mobile-app:

My BiofuelCircle: A community portal for the bioenergy community

BiofuelCircle Marketplace: An online marketplace for buying and selling biomass, biofuels and biofertilizers

BiofuelCircle Network: A network of service providers for quality assurances and logistics services for biomass and biofuels.



Buyers and sellers of biomass and biofuels can subscribe to the BiofuelCircle Marketplace through either pre-paid or post-paid subscription plans. They also then have an access to a variety of value-added services.

How does the market place work?

The first step is identifying areas or clusters with a demand and requirement. Upon identifying these areas, we create a supply base by onboarding the suppliers. The suppliers source the agri-residue they need from the farmers and to streamline this entire process we have envisioned a concept called Biomass Banks. These banks act as the primary point of contact for the farmers, help the farmers in evacuating the farms and serve as temporary storehouses for the biomass.

Our team speaks to the farmer and rural entities, explains the commercials to them, who then engage their resources to make provisions for their waste to be sold to their customers, through the biomass banks. We also undertake local campaigns and organize gram sabhas to understand the interests of the farmers better. We currently have one biomass bank in Amondi around Pune, where a Farmers Producers Organization (FPO) works closely with the farmers for collecting sugarcane trash. Apart from this we have three functional Biomass banks in other regions in Maharashtra, as well as in Gujarat and UP.

Once the primary demand and the supply base linkage is established, the platform runs like any other digital marketplace. For example – if a company wants to buy pellets, this need will be published on the platform and a pellet maker might respond to it. The pellet maker in turn, will publish their need of

an agricultural residue/waste for pellets, which could be fulfilled by the biomass banks. As the trading of industrial products inherently takes time, there is usually a time-gap involved between publishing of a requirement and the final delivery of the product.

What do you look for in collaborations? How has collaboration with PKC helped you in achieving your goals?

The first thing we look for, is an alignment with our values/objectives. Secondly, we also look whether there is some value addition that BiofuelCircle can provide to our potential collaborations/partners.

For example, we have a collaboration with-Bharti Institute of Public Policy, which is affiliated to the Indian School of Business (ISB), Hyderabad. One of the primary focus areas of this think tank, is to provide advice to the government on integrating the population living on the fringes with the mainstream economy, by generating permanent sources of livelihood.

While they can create policy framework and make interventions to a certain degree, they also need an access to the industry, to ensure that the individuals have a place to pursue their business. This is where our platform comes into picture- through the BiofuelCircle marketplace, we can provide the individuals with access to their potential customers.

With PKC, specifically, we were able to gain a perspective that the farmlands may not be sufficient sources of biofuels moving ahead, and one needs to look at alternative sources, such as degraded lands. We also realized that

some of our customers are keen to embrace such solutions, because the areas around their own factories consist of degraded lands which are not being utilized appropriately. Thus, we feel that this approach will not only augment the biofuel supply but also open up new opportunities. PKC also comprises of some of the finest minds coming together, so we get to learn a lot with their initiatives.

Can you share some success stories from people who have used your platform?

There are quite a few. Unilever, Coca Cola, PepsiCo, Godrej Industries, Aditya Birla group, Adani Gas are some of our notable customers today, and they are using our platform for sourcing their biomass requirements. Adani Gas has been one of our clients and they see a clear perceptible difference on ground, in Mathura. The farmers who never thought that they would be able to stop burning the waste or get paid for their waste want to work with us on a long-term basis today. Some of them have rented out areas of their own farmlands as temporary warehouses for storage of materials.

Through such kind of an association, an unspoken consensus has been built- farmers now know that if they get associated with our Biomass Banks in Mathura they will get their dues, and hence, they wait for BiofuelCircle to clear the farm waste every year. 96 villages in and around Mathura have come together to successfully end the polluting practice of crop burning. Spanning over 21,000 acres of farmland, connecting with more than 4000 farmers, and employing 11 balers, these efforts have proven to be extremely fruitful.

Another success story is that of a pilot project



we started with GIZ, in which they were looking at an opportunity to create a local market for facilitation of biomass exchange. The first step towards this was creating a mechanism for evacuation and storage of biomass and they were keen to get a demonstration from us whether the farmers were willing to participate in this exercise. With that understanding and the support of Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), we launched this project last year. Despite certain setbacks, there have been tremendous learnings, and this pilot has been largely successful in areas such as Amondi, Katol, Nandurbar etc. in Maharashtra. In fact, the Amondi FPO has also invested money in this project on a long-term basis and more such FPOs are willing to participate.



SNEAK PEAK



“Winning this scholarship is an important stepping stone towards carving out your own career paths, and becoming torch bearers for other women in your community!” says Ms. Sunita Sule, Head, Country Development and Government Relations, BASF while congratulating the year 2 awardees of the Wenyan Scholarship & Mentorship Program for Women, at the BASF Innovation Campus in January 2024.

For the past two years, PKC has spearheaded the WEnyan Scholarship and Mentorship Program with support from BASF Chemicals India Ltd., which aims to empower women from tier 2 and tier 3 cities in Maharashtra and fuel their passion towards building a career in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). The program provides financial support in the form of research scholarships, given to Bachelors & Masters students; & prototyping grants, given to doctoral students with nascent business ideas in the fields of chemistry, sustainability and allied areas.

Dr. Mushtaq Patel, Director, Head-Innovation Campus, Mumbai, BASF Chemicals India Pvt. Ltd. says, “It is a great privilege for me to be a part of a program that is designed for women by women. Through this program I have had the opportunity to interact with a number of talented and motivated women who are passionate about making a positive impact in the field of Chemistry.

The scholarship awardees have shown great dedication and determination in pursuing their research projects, which is a testament to their talent and potential. Executing this project on the ground has been an exciting and rewarding experience and BASF, in partnership with PKC, is pleased with its efforts to increase the number of female students enrolled in scientific streams, thus making it easier for women to join scientific fields.”

Apart from funding support, the program also provides the awardees with mentorship in topics such as project management, fund management, intellectual property rights and entrepreneurship. In order to help the awardees gain more knowledge and insights

of the wider academic, research and industry ecosystem in and around Pune, several field visits are also arranged. An online talk series – Conversations with Women Role Models in STEM, is one of the highlights of this program, in which the young girls get an opportunity to interact with women in leadership positions across different areas in STEM, and also gain inspiration from their individual personal as well as professional journeys.

“In the past two years, we have received over 600 applications from all over Maharashtra, of which around 100 students were interviewed for the program and ultimately 49 girls were selected for the scholarship. For many of them, the process of preparing and presenting in front of a highly accomplished jury was quite an experience. A first-of-its-kind program in Maharashtra, we look forward to scaling the program to support and mentor many more women in STEM”, says Dr. Ritika Ganguly, Project Manager, PKC who has been actively involved in executing the program on ground.

Dr. Shilpa Jain, General Manager, PKC who was involved in the conceptualization of the program concludes, “WEnyan goes beyond being just a program; it serves as a force breaking barriers and turning dreams into reality!”

NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

This section showcases events PKC has hosted to promote building of collaborative networks and also highlights events and meetings where PKC has been invited to present its initiatives.

Events organized by PKC

Online Teacher Training Workshops on Active Learning Strategies in STEM | 13-14 September 2023

PKC, in collaboration with BASF & Lenovo, hosted two online teacher training workshops on game-based learning and new strategies for effective STEM learning facilitated by Mrs. Shanti Pise (Teacher, Educator & Outreach Enthusiast, IISER Pune) and Mr. Kartic Vaidyanathan (Consultant, PKC, Guest Faculty, IIT Madras).

Online Teacher training workshop on Digital Tools in Education | 24 November 2023

PKC hosted an online teacher training workshop on digital tools in education, facilitated by Dr. Akash Chowkase (Postdoctoral Research Fellow, University of California, Berkely, U.S.A.)

Stakeholder Meeting with Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI) | 29 November 2023



PKC hosted a stakeholder meeting to understand the training gaps in public hospitals, Government organizations and local governing bodies. The Public Health Foundation of India was invited to demonstrate programs that can support these training gaps. PHFI demonstrated programs that could address these gaps.

Teacher training workshop on NEP Roadmap - from concept to practice | 30 November 2023

PKC hosted an online teacher training workshop on strategies for implementing the National Education Policy (NEP) effectively in schools, facilitated by Ms. Meenakshi Dalmia (Founder and Chief Education Officer, DLRC)

Educational tour to Defence Institute of Advanced Technology (DIAT) | 12 December 2023



A study tour for graduate, and post graduate students was arranged to Defence Institute of Advanced Technology (DIAT), under PKC's flagship initiative- LEAD: Learn | Explore | Access | Discover (<https://www.pkc.org.in/pkc-focus-area/capacity-building/lead/>) Students explored state-of-the-art facilities and gained information regarding possible career opportunities at DIAT through interactive sessions with experts.



Stakeholder Meeting with Garje Marathi Global | 4 January 2024

PKC hosted a stakeholder meeting with the team of Garje Marathi Global, to know more about their work, explore synergies, and to understand possible

collaboration opportunities for the economic development in Maharashtra.

Stakeholder Meeting with Praja Foundation | 10 January 2024

PKC hosted Mr. Milind Mhaske and the team of Praja Foundation to explore



synergies between the two companies on themes of public health, sustainability, environment and big data & AI.



Roundtable on water demand management and circularity & waste water reuse | 12 January 2024

PKC, in collaboration with Pune International Centre (PIC) and Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics (GIPE) hosted a roundtable to understand water

security, demand management and water circularity. With experts from Academia, NGOs, Civic Bodies and Industries, the discussions revolved around efficiency in water use, water pricing, water governance and management of water data in and around Pune region.

Announcement of WEnyan Round 2 Scholarship Awardees & Industrial Visit to BASF Innovation Campus | 15 January 2024

PKC and BASF made an official announcement of the second round of awardees of the WEnyan Scholarship and Mentorship Program for Women. The 28 scholarship awardees gave a short introduction of the work that would be accomplished with the scholarship grants, and were given a tour of the BASF Innovation Campus.



Industrial visits to Serum Institute of India & CSIR-National Chemical Laboratory, and CV writing workshop at PKC | 16-17 January 2024

As part of WEnyan Scholarship and Mentorship Program, PKC conducted industrial visits to Serum Institute of India and CSIR-National Chemical Laboratory, for all the awardees. Along with this, the awardees got to interact with the PKC team and participated in a CV writing workshop organized by PKC.



PKC representation at events

One-day international Consultative workshop on ‘Role of Forestry, Agroforestry, and Land Restoration in achieving Net Zero in the Asian Region’ | 12 December 2023, Goa

Mr. Shirish Kanitkar, consultant for the sustainability & environment vertical at PKC spoke about the need for Urban Forestry initiatives and the different programs that PKC has undertaken to achieve carbon neutrality in and around the Pune region.

CITIZEN CENTRIC TALKS

PKC's citizen centric talks are aimed at making science accessible to citizens and increasing scientific curiosity. The talks are available on our [Youtube Channel](#). They are held online to ensure nation-wide and global participation.



Speaker: Dr. Rohini Gupta (Innovation Manager for California Research Alliance by BASF)

**Topic: Vision to Victory: Exerting Influence without Authority
6 October, 2023**

As part of PKC's Women Role Model Talk Series, in this talk Dr. Gupta shared her professional journey with the participants, while providing with useful insights about expressing oneself in the professional domains with the right amount of assertiveness and conviction.



Speaker: Mr. Santosh Gurunath (Cofounder and CEO, Umanage Hydrogen)

Topic: Green Hydrogen in India: Prospects and Impending Challenges | 1 November, 2023

As part of the Sust-En Talk Series, this talk focused upon exploring the pivotal role of green hydrogen on a global level, while understanding its prospects as well as impending challenges in India.



Speaker: Mr. Ravindra Sinha (Founder-Trustee, Bhujal Abhiyan Trust)

Topic: Community Participation in Groundwater Management in Urban areas | 25 January, 2024

As part of the Sust-En Talk Series, this talk focused upon the different aspects of groundwater recharge and management and discussed the various ways in which the community can participate to contribute towards better groundwater management.



Topic: Challenges for Wastewater Treatment Plants in India 17 January, 2024

As part of the Sust-En Talk Series, PKC, together with its partners from the India-Denmark Water Technology Innovation Network organized this talk to understand the concrete challenges in wastewater treatment in India and explore possibilities of research and demonstration projects between Danish and Indian partners. The talk hosted discussions around topics such as repurposing of treated wastewater, sludge management, and opportunities for digital solutions in wastewater treatment.

COLLABORATIONS

In the last quarter, PKC has signed MoUs for several initiatives under the capacity building, health, and sustainability & environment.



WORLD
RESOURCES
INSTITUTE



AUDIENCE CONNECT



PKC's flagship Initiative – **Learn | Explore | Access | Discover** provides vocational exposure and networking opportunities to students via study tours, field visits and interactions with experts from research institutions, start-ups and industries in and around Pune.

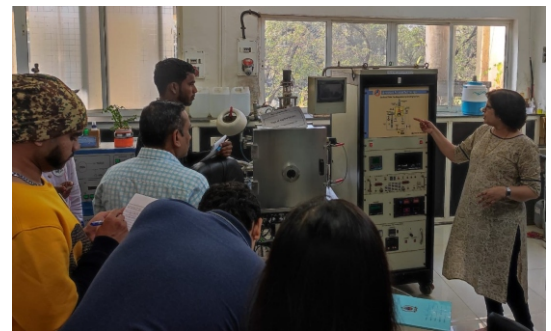


“ The study tour to Vasantdada Sugar Institute (VSI) strengthened my knowledge about the sugar industry. Visiting the brewery and liquor production department was a unique experience and the resource persons were very good at conveying all the relevant information. The interactive session with experts & researchers was very useful for helping me with my future career aspirations.

- **Vighnesh Sawant (S. K. Somaiya College of Science & Commerce, Mumbai)**

“ As a student of nanoscience & technology, the study tour to Defence Institute of Advanced Technology (DIAT) was extremely insightful, since it hosts a lot of interdisciplinary research. Being a defence enthusiast dreaming of joining the forces one day, this visit gave me an opportunity to understand the nanotechnology concepts that are taught in our university, with a different perspective, enhancing my interests even more.

- **Ms. Nancy Huidrom (Shivaji University, Kolhapur)**



To know more about the program,
write to us: capacitybuilding@pkc.org.in



Want to explore
PUNE'S
Science & Technology Ecosystem?

TEAM CONNECT

PKC is happy to provide a platform for young and dynamic individuals who are keen to broaden their horizons and explore new opportunities. Our team members have diverse backgrounds and skill sets. Some are showcased in this issue.



Dr. Vishnu Budama

Project Manager, Green Energy

An engineer with over 12 years of experience in the energy sector, with a specialization in renewable energy and green hydrogen, I currently lead the green energy vertical at PKC, where I am actively collaborating with industry and academic partners to conceptualize the Pune-Hydrogen Valley Innovation Cluster.

Ms. Anita Kane

Senior Advisor, Sustainability & Environment, Sustainable Mobility

Coming from a technology background, with over 40 years of experience, an opportunity to serve as the Chief Data Officer for Pune city transformed my professional interests. As an advisor at PKC, I now look at challenges faced by the Pune region and leverage my expertise to design and develop evidence-based technology solutions in the sustainability sector.



Ms. Devashree Kane

Chartered Accountant

I handle all the Accounting and Statutory Compliances for PKC by formulating the organizational and structural processes that are appropriate for PKC's varied set of operations.

Mr. Shreyas Khade

Project Assistant

With a background in Environmental Science, I coordinate the on-field tours for geo-tagging saplings in the ConnecTree initiative of the sustainability and environment vertical in PKC. Apart from this, I also coordinate a project aimed at boosting ridership of PMPML buses in the sustainable mobility vertical.



Ms. Gayatri Kshirsagar

Assistant Program Manager, Capacity Building and STEM Education

With a background in life sciences, I have 10 years of experience in managing science communication and public engagement programs. In my current role, I head the LEAD program and various STEM education initiatives, build and strengthen networks with educators, researchers and media, and also help in organizing events undertaken by PKC.



Ms. Snehal Sadalage

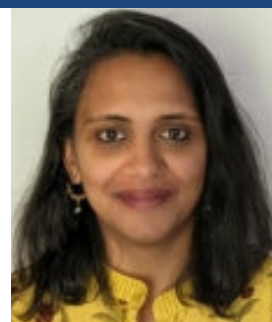
Research Associate

Working as a research associate at PKC has opened up many ways for me to use my applied statistics knowledge into environment and sustainability projects. It also provides me with ways to develop myself, and to contribute towards net-zero emission.

Ms. Priyanki Shah

Senior Project Manager, Health

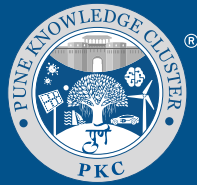
With a background in Molecular Medicine and Microbiology, I currently work as a senior project manager at the health vertical. I specialize in driving collaborations between government, academics and philanthropies to generate evidence and knowledge that contributes towards bringing a positive impact in the public health sector.



Mr. Anand Tulankar

Field Research Officer

With a background in botanical sciences, I undertake on-ground field-work for the Treeverse Program under the Sustainability and Environment Vertical.



PUNE KNOWLEDGE CLUSTER

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