



Youth4Water Plus

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DRIVING THE PASSION AND ENERGY OF YOUTH FOR WASH AND CLIMATE ACTIONS!



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Message from for every child



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Dear Youth Leaders,

Happy New Year 2024! 🎉

As we welcome a new year, I would like to take this valuable opportunity to express my gratitude and appreciation for your amazing work and achievements in the UNICEF-led Youth4Water Plus campaign in Odisha in 2023. You have truly shone in your respective fields by spearheading nature camps, discussions in different colleges, developing knowledge products, informative videos, through community radio, taking part in government initiatives and much more.

You have demonstrated your passion, commitment, and leadership in promoting water, sanitation and hygiene, climate change, and environmental sustainability among your peers and beyond.

You have made a positive difference in the lives of many people, especially those who are vulnerable & marginalized. You have inspired others to join you in your mission to create a more water-secure and resilient future for all. You have also enriched your own skills and knowledge, and built lasting friendships and networks along the way. I am proud that youth from our Youth4Water Plus campaign represented Odisha in various national and many international conferences this year including COP28, RCOY, FAO World Food Forum, UN Water Conference, and LCOY India.

You should be proud of your accomplishments & yourselves. I am certainly proud of you and honoured to be part of this wonderful campaign. I can visualise the youth becoming environmentalist by heart with each initiative and it makes me even more proud.

"I want every youth to be an environmentalist at heart"
- Shipra Saxena



As we enter 2024, I hope you will continue to be the agents of change and innovation that you are. I hope you will keep learning, growing, and sharing your ideas and experiences with others. I hope you will face the challenges and opportunities ahead with courage and optimism.

As we move forward, let's remember that our actions today will shape the world of tomorrow. Your dedication to the cause of water conservation & sustainability is not just about making a difference today, but it's about ensuring a healthier and safer future for generations to come. Your efforts are planting seeds of change that will grow into forests of resilience and sustainability. So, keep shining, keep striving, and keep inspiring. The world needs more leaders like you. Here's to a brighter, greener, and more water-secure future. Together, we can and we will make a difference.

I wish you all the best of luck and blessings in your personal and professional endeavours. I look forward to working with you in 2024 in a stronger and greener way. 😊

Sincerely,

Shipra Saxena

Shipra Saxena

WASH-CCES Specialist, UNICEF Odisha

Youth Leaders Council shine at the Nature Camp

Zero Waste



With the awakening spirit, Youth4Water Plus, an youth-driven, UNICEF-led campaign, collaborated in an really inspiring community partnership with FORCE, Bikash Saathi, Suze Power Craft and hospitality partner Sai Iswari Hill View Resort. Together, they organised a fun yet learning initiative, the "zero waste Nature Camp: Nature Trail Where Youth Meet Nature."

The fun led immersive camp was organized from 8th of December to the 10th of December 2023 which brought together over 30 enthusiastic learners from different districts of Odisha. Set against picturesque backdrop of the Kuldiha Wildlife Sanctuary in Balasore District.

The Nature Walk through the woods of the Panchalingeswar, youth studied the biodiversity and the role of different flora and fauna in maintaining ecological balance. Walking approx. One km inside the sanctuary, they saw nature in all its glory & harmony. Innumerable varieties of flora and fauna, lakes, streams were seen. Dr Biswajeet Panda led the walk and through animated commentary and practical demonstrations, brought out the interlinkages between them.

Plogging in the sanctuary and making a section free of plastic waste. Under the guidance of an youth leaders council member Nirakar Bisoyi and a Sattvic Soul

"When the well's dry, we know the worth of water."

~ Benjamin Franklin

Foundation young volunteer Suvendu Behera, youth collected more than 25 kg of plastic waste from a less than 1 km stretch of the forest and made it clean. Youth were shocked to see this quantity of waste from a protected sanctuary and pledged to minimise their own personal use of plastic.

Butterfly species count and identification field training was done under the guidance of Dr Biswajeet. A total of 26 varieties of butterflies were found in the short 1 km stretch. He also informed the youth about butterfly behaviours and the crucial role they play as pollinators of the forest.

Identifying indicator species – Dr Biswajeet pointed out small insects such as dragonfly and damselfly etc and explained how these species act as indicators of the health of the ecosystem.

Role of Elephant as creators of the forest. The forest had some patches which showed clear evidence of elephant activity such as their droppings and tracks through the land made by them. Dr Biswajit explained how the elephant acts as the carrier of seeds, fertiliser and thereby creates the forest.

Later, with a short recreational break, the youth had a session on talk with Ornithologist Mr Manoranjan Das. Session on 'Rare Birds of Kuldiha Sanctuary' by 'Bird Man of Balasore' Manoranjan Das. A self-made, passionate environmentalist and a local resident, Manoranjan has documented over 250 rare species of aquatic birds like Ducks, Cormorant, kingfisher and the terrestrials like Plum headed Parakite, Hill myna, Drongo kuko birds in the sanctuary. With the continuous process to protect the glorified reptiles(birds) so community participation is the fundamental thing as these in situ sites have been occupied by indigenous community. He has monitored their growth, re-established their habitats and worked with local populations to prevent their hunting. He told the youth about his conservation efforts and apart from the information about birds, also gave useful tips about how to engage different communities in conservation efforts.



As the camp draws to a close, the impact on the youth is evident. They depart with not only a newfound passion for environmental conservation but also equipped with practical skills and a network of like-minded individuals. This experience has empowered them to become advocates for positive change in their communities, inspiring others to act for a more sustainable future. Moreover, spending time in nature allowed participants to appreciate the intrinsic value of our environment and understand the crucial interdependence between water, ecosystems, and sustainable living.

Climate & WASH Guardians

Power Packed Youth Leaders Council Members – Leading the change you want to see!

Tribal youth festival in Kandhamal
led by **Hrusikesh Pradhan**



Hrusikesh Pradhan, a dedicated member of the Youth Leaders Council from Youth4Water Plus, played a pivotal role in leading the 16th Antarang Yuva Mahotsav at Balliguda, a dynamic gathering of people, where Youth4Water Plus collaborated with Antarang Yuva Sangathan to bring together over 300 enthusiastic youths from 12 blocks in Kandhamal District. This event served as a platform for meaningful conversations on various critical issues affecting society.

The focus of the discussions revolved around the vital role of youth in societal development. Participants actively engaged in conversations addressing many pressing concerns such as combating issue of the child marriage, conservation of the biodiversity, the horseshoe crabs safeguarding, and tackling issues like plastic pollution and forest conservation.

The collaborative efforts of youth showcased a shared commitment to making a positive impact in the community. Through the open dialogues and shared initiatives, the youth demonstrated their dedication to creating positive change and fostering a more sustainable future. The event served as a reminder to the power of collective action and the potential of youth-led movements in driving positive transformations in society. Together, they are actively contributing in building a better & more sustainable world.

Nirakar Bisoyi Leads Y4W Plus in **Disaster Resilience Training**



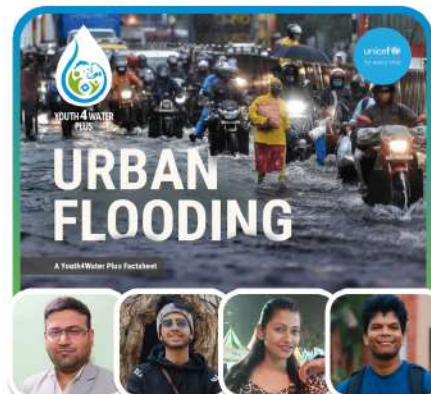
Nirakar Bisoyi, a young dedicated member of the Youth Leaders Council of Youth4Water Plus, took the lead in organizing training initiatives. In collaboration with UNICEF Odisha, knowledge partner AJSA, and community partners, the training engaged more than 500 youth change leaders in Ganjam, Jajpur, and Kendrapara districts of Odisha, falling within the age group of 15 to 17.



Disaster Risk Resilience (DRR), as highlighted by Bisoyi, refers to the capacity of communities, regions, and nations to anticipate, prepare for, respond to, and recover from the adverse effects of disasters. The aim is to ensure minimal disruption to normal life and to preserve the socio-economic stability.

Through this training initiative, Nirakar showcased leadership in empowering youth to actively contribute to disaster resilience, emphasizing the crucial role they play in fostering sustainable and resilient communities.

Knowledge Product on Urban Flooding developed by **Puranjay Sahu, Abhilash Sachdeva, Aparajita Barik & Bablu Purty**



Urban Flooding is a problem that all cities need to plan for. Its root cause is simply natural water flow that finds its way blocked and so accumulates to fill spaces not designed to accommodate it. If we respect water's seasonal need for space, plan our homes and cities to allow safe passage or safe storage of water, urban flooding will cease to be a problem.

With increasing concentration of population, industry and public investments in cities and towns, urban flooding is becoming a major area of concern.



Four passionate and dedicated member of Youth Leaders Council of Youth4Water Plus, **Puranjay Sahoo, Abhilash Sachdeva, Aparajita Barik and Bablu Purty** developed a factsheet on Urban Flooding of Odisha highlighting issues and challenges faced by Odisha people. The factsheet has been shared across more than 5000 youth across Odisha.

Empowerment through Impactful Video Awareness Campaigns led by **Indu Nanda**



Indu Nanda, a dedicated Youth Leaders Council Member, in her role as a passionate volunteer for Youth4Water Plus in Odisha, leads the charge in climate change campaigns and excels at crafting compelling social media content with a significant impact.

Notably, as a video creator for Youth4Water Plus, Indu adds immense value through her dedication to building a youth-led institution. At the heart of her impactful work, Indu Nanda has ventured into areas like Nagada, Jajpur where she has created informative videos shedding light on their WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) and nutrition issues. From capturing the essence of Global Handwashing Day to documenting youth programs in tribal areas, Indu's powerful reels have made a long-lasting impact.



Her ability to utilize the medium of video to raise awareness and drive positive change further solidifies her as a standout figure in the realms of environmental activism & youth empowerment.

Creative Symphony of Wildlife Conservation and Community led by **Dr. Biswajeet Panda**



Dr. Biswajeet Panda, a passionate Youth Leaders Council member and a wildlife biologist with a passion for creating harmony between humans and animals. Picture him as a maestro, orchestrating different innovative symphonies that blend scientific exploration with the community empowerment. His stage? The vibrant landscapes where human-animal conflicts unfold.



In his pursuit to contribute to wildlife conservation, Dr Biswajeet doesn't just observe from afar. No, he's right in the middle of the action, leading a courageous crusade with Youth4WaterPlus to rescue the Horseshoe crab – a true indicator of Balasore's vitality. It's like he's conducting a rescue opera for these remarkable creatures.

But Dr. Biswajeet's creative genius extends beyond research papers. He's like a mentor to local fishermen, teaching them the art of sustainable living without disrupting the marine dance. He weaves a narrative of shared responsibility, where communities and the invaluable marine ecosystem coexist in a harmonious ballet. Imagine him as a storyteller, captivating both the human and animal kingdoms, ensuring that his tales of coexistence echo through the waves.

Bridging Knowledge and Advocacy on Environment through Quiz led by **Prasamit Kanungo**



Prasamit Kanungo, a Youth4Water Plus Youth Leaders Council member, who is passionate to leverage the platform of quizzing for climate change advocacy. Beyond the realm of accolades, Prasamit actively engages in environmental & social advocacy. Collaborating with governmental bodies and influential change leaders, Prasamit contributes substantively to global initiatives addressing critical climate issues.

Prasamit Kanungo exemplifies a professional commitment to utilizing the medium of quizzing as a means to illuminate and address environment & climate concerns. In the Sisir Saras Mela held in January 2024, Youth4Water Plus collaborated with Panchayati Raj & Drinking Water Department, Government of Odisha to set up a stall on WASH and Youth4Water Plus initiatives. Prasamit quizzed about 1000 community members visiting the stall on WASH & environment issues.



Soumyadip Dewanji's Journey in Climate Justice, Health Advocacy, and Design Innovation



Passionate about climate justice, health, and youth empowerment, **Soumyadip Dewanji** is a dedicated and experienced youth leader and advocate.

Currently pursuing UG dentistry training at GNIDSR in Kolkata, he assumed the role of Lead of Creative and Design and became a member of the Youth Leaders Council of the Youth4Water Plus Campaign in January 2023. As the Lead Designer, he has played a pivotal role in designing powerful creatives focused on WASH, climate action & the environment, transforming words into impactful visuals and adding aesthetic appeal to data.

Soumyadip has creatively designed reports, posters, creatives for events and campaign materials all around the year.

In his commitment to driving change, he founded The Climate Studio, youth-led creative agency supporting nonprofits dedicated to social change.

Through his shiny & strong skills in communications, design & policy, he aspires to amplify youth voices and to create sustainable change on a global scale.



Rangoli Competition on Global Handwashing Day led by Subhashree Subhasmita



Subhashree Subhasmita, a Youth Leaders Council member led the Rangoli competition organised by Youth4Water Plus in collaboration with KT Global School on Global Handwashing Day with youth artists of different age groups on the theme 'Clean Hands are Within Reach'. More than 31 youths from Class 7th, 8th, 11th & 12th participated in the events. Later winners were felicitated by certificates.



"Covid taught us a lesson to clean hands regularly and very often to kill germs from our hands." says Sai Aradhaya from class 7th standard.

Aditya Choudhury's Green Initiative: Seedball Workshop with Youth4Water Plus



Aditya Choudhury, spearheading Youth4Water Plus, orchestrated a dynamic Seedball Workshop at Capital High School, Bhubaneswar, in collaboration with UNICEF Odisha, UDRA, and the Sattvic Soul Foundation. The event, held on September 1, 2023, aimed at instilling eco-consciousness and enthusiasm in youth, as they crafted hundreds of seedballs—self-sustaining capsules with seeds to grow plants. Aditya's leadership empowered students and partners to contribute to a greener and sustainable future.

The workshop demonstrated unity in action, blending environmental awareness with tangible steps towards a healthier planet. Aditya Choudhury's vision guides this collective journey to sow seeds of positive change in communities and beyond.

Link: <https://fb.watch/mOwTYo9rgS/?mibextid=Nif5oz>



Deepan Digal: Leading **Youth Choupals for Environmental Action** in Tribal areas in Odisha



Deepan Digal, a young dedicated member of the Youth Leaders Council, showcased exemplary leadership in spearheading the Y20 Youth Choupals organized by Youth4Water Plus in the Jajpur, Kandhamal, and Khordha districts.

In Nagada, Jajpur he facilitated a crucial discussion involving 40 youths, addressing issues of WASH and climate change. Deepan sensitized the participants to clean water consumption, proper handwashing, and the impacts of climate change, encouraging them to share their experiences and concerns.

In Manglajodi, Khordha Deepan orchestrated a Youth Choupal, focusing on climate migration with the participation of 50 youths. The session covered topics like waterbody conservation, climate refugees, wetland livelihood, sanitation, and youth engagement in WASH activities. His dynamic leadership and engagement strategies empowered the youths to discuss and find solutions to environmental challenges.



Furthermore, in Kudupakia and Kandhamal, Deepan led a Youth Choupal addressing forest fires. Tribal youths from the Kandha tribe actively participated, sharing strategies like separating dried leaves to prevent small-range fires and collaborating with Forest Rangers for larger incidents. They also employed folk songs to raise awareness and demonstrated passionate Deepan's commitment to address diverse environmental issues.

Pic Credit: Dr. Biswajeet Panda



Youth4Water Plus

Changing Lives Drop by Drop

Swachh Bharat: Step towards a Waste-Free Nation



In year of 2023, Swachhata Hi Sewa focused on achieving a "Garbage Free India" while promoting visual cleanliness and recognizing the tireless efforts of SafaiMitras. Driven by the spirit of voluntarism, Youth Water Plus and TATA STRIVE joined hands to organize a vibrant campaign.

Across Odisha, 60 ITIs participated in mass clean-up drives, while over 1,000 young volunteers from 12 ITIs took the initiative to make their communities cleaner. From diligently cleaning temples to plogging at popular tourist spots, these passionate individuals engaged in diverse activities. Nukkad Nataks spread awareness among local residents, while Swachhata Karma Charis were celebrated for their dedication to sanitation.

Airwaves of Joy: Community Radio Stations Unite for Children's Day Celebrations

On Nov 14th, in collaboration with four community radio stations – Radio Bulbul, Radio Namaskar, Radio Dhimsa, and Radio Swayam Shakti, the Youth4Water Plus celebrated Children's Day under the theme "Flush Away Obstacles, Celebrate Children's Day with Clean Futures."

This impactful initiative not only brought together young people to celebrate Children's Day but also empowered them to become agents of change in their communities.

Reaching beyond traditional channels, Youth4Water Plus took innovative steps to engage a wider youth network in rural areas across 30 districts of Odisha. Through sessions as engaging radio broadcasts, interactive social media campaigns, and local community events, they directly mobilized 250 young people and reached over 10,000 more online.



Through their combined efforts, they flushed away obstacles and paved the way for a brighter future with clean water and sanitation for all.

Spreading Clean Hands, Saving Lives #Youth4Water Plus

Youth4Water Plus in collaboration with Youth for Sustainability (YFS), PanTiss, Lixil & SATO conducted community awareness session on Global Handwashing Day with mobilising community people and promotion of the hand hygiene practices in food stalls across Cuttack and Khordha districts of Odisha through the use & distribution of 100 SATO taps.



SATO TAPS are portable and easy to use hygiene solution that provides households with the benefits of handwashing without need of running water.

The Initiative had engaged youth community members to practice the proper water conservation techniques with a visionary target to conserve the water across districts.

Youth Engagement Soars at Balyatra: A Vibrant Participation Tale



Celebrating vibrant culture of Odisha, the 'Baliyatra' stands as Asia's prime open fair-trade hub. Engaging over 100 EV drivers, Youth4Water and Sattvic Soul Foundation led the awareness sessions and spirited plogging activities on the Baliyatra grounds. Their podcasts, centred on climate actions, profoundly influenced the youth in Odisha, fostering a sense of involvement and the dedication toward environmental responsibility and sustainability. Satyabrata Samal, a passionate Youth Ambassador of Youth4Water Plus & CEO of Sattvic Soul Foundation was felicitated for keeping Baliyatra Field and Mahandi plastic free all over the year. He received the memento from Hon'ble Governor of Odisha, Mr Raghubar Das & Chief Secretary of Odisha, Mr Pradeep Jena, IAS.

Empowering Tomorrow's Leaders: State level Youth Camp 2023



A 4-day residential State level Youth Camp was organized by Project Point in collaboration with Youth4Water Plus, National Youth Project (NYP), Kamaguru College, and with the invaluable support of the Government of Odisha. From October 30th to November 2nd, 2023, the event had the privilege of hosting 200 enthusiastic youth changemakers at Kamaguru College, Khordha, Odisha, India.

This event was all about igniting the passion for change and sustainability in young leaders. Dr. Amar Patnaik, MP Rajya Sabha, graced the occasion with his presence and shared his inspiring vision for the youth of today. Guest speakers, Mr. M S Khan and Mr. Sankuli Biswal, UNICEF State Consultants took interesting sessions for the young people on the Role of UNICEF in youth and climate advocacy, and creating clean and green villages. Their insights are sure to spark transformative ideas. The dedicated Youth4Water Plus Advocates, Satyabrata Samal, Hrusikesh Pradhan and Smrutirupa Swain, led day-long sessions and engaged with the youth to craft a powerful youth statement that emerged from the dynamic deliberations throughout these four days.



Pic Credit: Nirakar Bisoyi

Water Warriors Digest

Phase -II Internship Program with Animal Climate and Health Save Foundation

Youth4Water Plus partnered with global campaign, The Plant Based Treaty by the organization, Animal Climate & Health Save Foundation and launched an exciting 2-month internship program on effective climate change advocacy. Based on United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the course has been designed focusing on the 18+ age group on a transition to a plant-based food system to protect the Earth and its biodiversity. Internship program offered climate education, career pathways, youth empowerment, networking, skill development etc.

What Youth Say? Celebrating the World Toilet Day 2023

Youth4Water Plus hosted a live panel discussion on World Toilet Day in collaboration with a popular regional channel, 113 Signature Studio.

The panel comprised esteemed experts Ms Anwesa Dutta, Mr Harekrushna Pradhan & Mr Rahul Nayak. The engaging discussion, moderated by Sandipan Sarangi, revolved around the challenges faced by Sanitation and drinking water with the poorest people, particularly women and girls, paying the highest price in terms of poor health, missed education, loss of productivity & general insecurity.



Youth4Water Plus participates at UN World Food Forum

Youth4Water Plus team member Abhishek Mani attended UN World Food Forum 2023, held at Rome, Italy, from 16-21 October 2023. UN World Food Forum is a prestigious international event that convenes experts, the policymakers, and stakeholders from around the world to address pressing issues related to food security, nutrition, and sustainable agriculture. The forum provided a platform to: Share insights and experiences from our organization's initiatives and projects, build partnerships with other organizations and stakeholders.



Youth4Water Plus participation at the Annual Conference of AMIC

Sanjogita Mishra, Lead Special Projects of TataSTRIVE, an active partner of the Youth4Water Plus Campaign presented a paper on "Issues and the challenges in environment communication - A case study on Youth4Water Plus" in the 29th annual conference of AMIC (Asian Media Information and Communication Centre) held in Bandung, Indonesia from 28th to 30th September.

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@Youth4WaterPlus

Spotlight Odisha@COP28

Odisha's Young Climate Activists Shine at COP28 in Dubai, UAE

COP 28, or the 28th United Nations Climate Change Conference of the Parties, is an international gathering where representatives from nearly 200 countries come together to discuss and negotiate global climate policies and actions. The conference was held from 30 November until 12 December 2023 in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.



Pic: Messages for climate action - Rally

The conference focused on fast-tracking the move to clean energy sources, delivering money for climate action from richer to poorer countries, and working on a new deal for developing nations. It was hoped that COP 28 would help keep alive the goal of limiting long-term global temperature rises to 1.5°C. This target is crucial to avoid the most damaging impacts of climate change, according to the UN's climate body, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

One of the most significant aspects of COP 28 was the emphasis on networking. The Global Climate Action space at COP 28 provided a platform for governments, businesses, and civil society to collaborate and showcase their real-world climate solutions. The COP 28 Platform was a space where participants could watch and join meetings, network with other participants, and create self-service online meetings. Youth advocacy was at the forefront of COP 28. Young activists for climate change urged government officials to place the world's almost 2 billion children at the forefront of their policies.

The COP 28 Presidency recognized the urgency of ensuring that the "voices of youth are front and center at COP 28". The COP 28 Youth Climate Champion set out priorities, including defining a sustainable, holistic model for meaningful youth engagement for all future COPs.

The conference closed with an agreement that signals the "beginning of the end" of the fossil fuel era by laying the ground for a swift, just, and equitable transition, underpinned by deep emissions cuts and scaled-up finance.



Pic: Anwesa, Aswini, Abhishek and Punya (from left to right)

Five dedicated climate activists from Odisha, India- Abhishek Mani, Anwesa Dutta, Aswini Kumar Paital, Deepsha D. Dhal and Punyasloka Panda, represented the Youth4Water Plus campaign and its partner organizations Sattvic soul Foundation, Bakul Foundation, Youth for Sustainability India Alliance, at the 28th UN Climate Change Conference (COP 28) held in Dubai. The conference served as a crucial platform for them to learn about climate issues and share their initiatives.



Pic: Meet & greet with Environment Minister of India

During the conference, these young activists had the opportunity to interact with several notable personalities. They met Bhupender Yadav, the Union Cabinet Minister of Labour and Employment, Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Archana Varma, the Mission Director of the National Water Mission (NWM), Rajendra Singh, known as the Waterman of India, and Srichchha Pradhan, Ms. Nepal 2023. These interactions further strengthened their resolve to combat climate change.

India's role at COP 28 was significant, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi launching LeadIT 2.0. This initiative focuses on the co-development and transfer of low-carbon technology and financial assistance to emerging economies. The Prime Minister highlighted India's efforts and initiatives to address climate change.

These young activists from Odisha are eager to apply their learnings from COP 28 in their home state. They plan to inspire more young people to join the fight against climate change. Their journey at COP28 is a testament to the power of youth in driving climate action and shaping a sustainable future.



POEM ON FLOWERS:

In gardens graced by hues so bold,
Red pygmy water lilies unfold.
Yellow elders stand tall and bright,
China pink blooms in soft twilight.
French marigolds, a golden array,
White Philippine violets gently sway.
Bush clock vine, a timepiece in rhyme,
Crown of thorns, a daring climb.
Crested cockscombs, a vibrant dance,
Japanese camellias, a floral trance.
Shoeblack plant, shadows deep,
Pride of India, in elegance, steep.
In this floral tapestry, colours align,
Nature's artistry, a masterpiece divine

by **Nirakar Bisoyi**, Youth Leaders Council
Member Y4W+, Secretary Tree Foundation

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