

Youth4Jobs, SwarajAbility & NotJustArt
wishes you a

Happy
New Year

2024



FOUNDER'S NOTE - MEERA SHENOY



As the sunsets on 2023, we see a brighter high impact Sunrise of 2024

We thank all who believed in us and have become part of the fast growing Youth4Jobs family joining SwarajAbility to make the right to employability a reality in India....These include young men and women with disabilities, their parents, ngos, companies, educational institutions ,donors, national international partners and governments. And many many others who gave their valuable time generously with just a call.

A glimpse of our work in the last 3 months follows.....



Wishing everyone a joyful and healthy 2024!
We look forward to working together.

Highlights

Zero Project

The Zero Project India Conference is an initiative to create a cooperative and catalytic community of social purpose organizations in the inclusion ecosystem. The conference is a joint effort between the **Zero Project India Conference and Youth4Jobs Foundation**. The **inaugural Zero Project India conference was held in New Delhi in September 2023**



SwarajAbility wins the 8th eNortheast Award, 2023 for Best Digital Innovation in the category of Livelihood & Enterprise Development

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The Global Ability Photography Challenge 2023

 The second edition of The Global Ability Photography Challenge 2023 was a successful event and celebrated diversity and talent through the art of photography. 🌍🌟

and much more...





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The eNorth East Awards promotes and awards young innovators, who developed a digital application, tackling the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs).

This year we look forward to an improved engagement with different organizations, NGO's, government Organizations and Educational Institutions through their very own interfaces on the SwarajAbility Portal. Together the vision of SwarajAbility is to make sure that every youth with disability registers on the portal and becomes a part of this Atmanirbhar movement of making youth with disability poverty free.

Zero Project India Conference



Zero Project India Conference is an initiative by Zero Project, launched in collaboration with Youth4Jobs. It aims to support all stakeholders interested in innovation and scaling solutions for the disabled population in India. A core part of the project's work in the country was the annual Zero Project India Conference.

The Zero Project India Conference and CII-IBDN National Conference (#ZeroConIndia) took place September 19-20, 2023, and aimed to be a key event in the disability inclusion calendar in India. The Conference proved to be a unique and highly influential event. It brought together diverse stakeholders from India or with an interest in India and South Asia to introduce and promote innovative solutions for achieving a more inclusive society for persons with disabilities.

The Conference was jointly organised by the Zero Project and the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and was supported by Omidyar Network India. The lead partner for the conference was Youth4Jobs. Other partners of the conference were GDI Partners, Axis Bank Foundation and The Hans Foundation.



SEASON 2

GLOBAL ABILITY PHOTOGRAPHY CHALLENGE 2023

*The ONLY Photography Challenge
Exclusive for Persons with Disabilities*

Youth4Jobs, in partnership with Indian Photo festival & US Consulate Hyderabad, presents a first-of-its-kind unique Global Ability Photography Challenge.

In the last eleven years, Youth4Jobs Foundation (www.youth4jobs.org) has been investing in abilities of youth with disabilities through trainings and sustained livelihood linkages. Not Just Art (www.notjustartglobal.org), is a digital platform of Youth4Jobs created to support visual artists with disabilities in India and promote their work to a global audience of art lovers, collectors, museums, and galleries. Pre-Covid, Not Just Art held a national Arts award for artists with disabilities with UNESCO as its partner.

Photography is a way of celebrating the creative abilities of disabled. It is also a seamless way of sensitising society to the abilities of the disabled, which is the core of our work. The Ability Challenge invited submissions from all amateur or professional photographers with disabilities. The Youth4Jobs team conducted fun-filled photography workshops, even at the grassroot level, leveraging its pan India presence. This brought in close to 800 entries from 8 countries.

Top 20 participating artists whose work was exhibited at the State Art Gallery in Madhapur

Lavanujan Croos, Akanksha Kamble, Gayatri Gupta, Aravind R, Awinash Anant Kulkarni, Deepanshi Sharma, Raji Reddy, Azhar Hussain, Kanvaru Meher, Sam Varghese, Sandeep Nayak, Vijay NM, Adike Sandeep, Satish Kumar, Musaif Ali ansari, Amar Singh Meena & Syed Naseema

The TOP 8 winners of the Global Ability Photography challenge Second Edition - were Lavanujan Croos, Akanksha Kamble, Gayatri Gupta, Aravind R, Awinash Anant Kulkarni, Deepanshi Sharma, Raji Reddy & Azhar Hussain

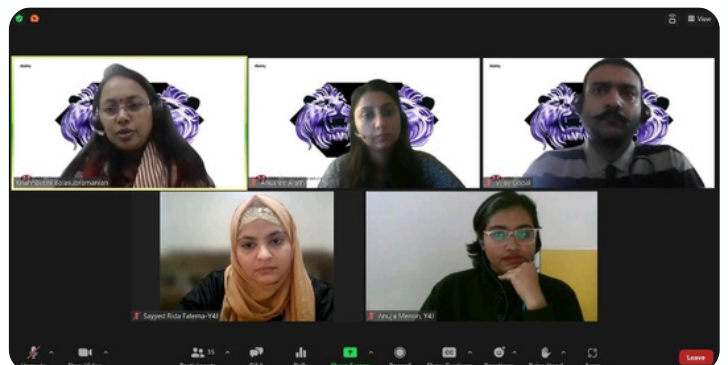
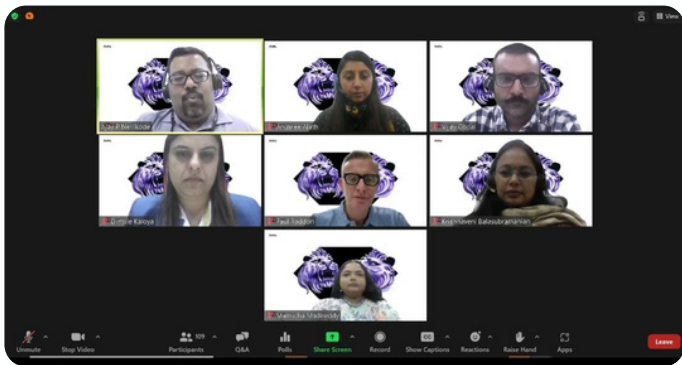
NJA/Y4J also collaborated with the Godrej D & I Centre to showcase Global Ability Photography challenge - Second Edition award-winning photographs captured by young individuals with disabilities in Mumbai.

This exhibition was part of the event titled "PwD Inclusion in Workplaces: Strategies for Success." on December 8th, 2023 L at Auditorium, Godrej One, Pirojshanagar, Vikhroli, Mumbai - 400079

CORPORATE CONNECT

Services provided by Y4J were actively being implemented pan India. Different facilitators who have expertise in different areas came together to conduct various workshops with different clients.

- 1. Bayer CropScience Limited** – Gujarat, Telangana – The Access Audit conducted at Bayer's facilities in Gujarat and Telangana aimed to evaluate specific areas within the existing buildings and campus to determine the level of accessibility to services and facilities. Its purpose was to identify necessary modifications or corrections needed to enhance compliance with legislation regarding accessibility standards.
- 2. HSBC** – The Disability Awareness Webinar, attended by over 30 employees, aimed to enhance comprehension and awareness regarding disabilities and interacting with Persons with Disabilities (PwDs). The webinar emphasized the promotion of inclusivity, sensitivity, and awareness concerning the difficulties PwDs encounter in the workplace. Key topics covered encompassed the establishment of an inclusive atmosphere, comprehension of various abilities, debunking misconceptions, and offering direction on fostering productive collaborations with PwDs to cultivate a more supportive work culture.



Sensitization Workshop

- 1. Avery Dennison Pvt. Ltd-** Bangalore-The workshop, attended by 25 employees, aimed to sensitively educate and prepare colleagues to establish an inclusive workplace for individuals with disabilities. Using interactive sessions and practical insights, it sought to cultivate empathy, clarify misunderstandings, and advocate for collaboration and accommodation strategies. By nurturing a culture of respect and support, the trained employees were expected to take the lead in championing diversity and ensuring that everyone, irrespective of ability, felt valued and empowered in the workplace.



Sensitization Workshop

2. Pfizer – Goa – The sensitization workshop that was tailored for 20 senior managers served as a pivotal forum that raised awareness and deepened understanding regarding disabilities in the workplace. Through targeted discussions, real-life scenarios, and practical guidance, the session aimed to broaden perspectives, debunk stereotypes, and highlight the value of creating an inclusive environment.



Sign Language Workshop

1. Tata Cummins Pvt Ltd– Pune – The sign language workshop held in Pune for 50+ employees during the International Day for Persons with Disabilities aimed to introduce basic sign language and highlight the importance of inclusive communication and creating an environment where individuals with hearing impairments feel respected and included in workplace interactions and celebrations.



2. Ador Powertron Ltd – Pune – The Sign language Workshop for over 30 employees introduced basic sign language skills, promoting inclusion and better communication for individuals with hearing impairments. This interactive session aimed to create a more supportive workplace, empowering everyone to communicate effectively and feel included.



TAKING OUR GRASSROOT TEAM TO A GLOBAL CONFERENCE

Our Grassroot team, Divyang Mitr working in the villages to support disability community, was thrilled to interact with participants and the leaders at the first Zero Project India conference and CII-IBDN National Conference disability.

Our team members were thrilled to meet Michael Fembek (CEO and Member of the Board - Zero Project) and Daniel Van Sant. (Director of Disability Policy at The Harkin Institute)



After the conference triumph, Meera Shenoy expressed

Divyang Mitr(friends of the disabled) are a team who counsel, motivate other youth with disabilities in remote villages to enroll in livelihood trainings. Like Sowmya who tells other youth with disabilities in villages encouragingly, "I share your disability. If I can earn, You too can". Or Prahlad, a floor walker who attempted suicide as his continuous unemployment meant his family slept everyday without two square meals. Today, as a Divyang Mitr, he moves around on a wheel chair and helps his community digitally register for their UDID cards; briefs them about their rights and government schemes, coaxes local industry to hire youth with disabilities after trainings with the slogan, "Each one take one". Divyang Mitr are part of our community Change Makers. Covid taught us many lessons, one of which was there was a deep desire in our alumni with disabilities to give back to their community. Youth4Jobs Grassroot Academy is the reflection of these learnings .

COLLABORATIONS



"AICTE Partners with Youth4Jobs Foundation to Empower Students with Disabilities through Training and Placement Support"

AICTE Chairman Prof. Sitharam T.G and Member Secretary Prof. Rajive Kumar witnessed the signing and exchanging of MoUs with Youth4Jobs Foundation today at AICTE HQ, New Delhi, to provide marked linked training and placement support to students who are with disabilities. The collaboration will focus on creating disability awareness among educators, educational institutions, employers, and the community.

"MOU Signed: Youth4Jobs Foundation & Delhi Govt. Education Directorate Collaborate for Schools"

Youth4Jobs is now officially affiliated with the Directorate of Education government of Delhi. The Youth4Jobs Foundation and the Directorate of Education government of Delhi have signed an MOU to collaborate in Delhi government Schools, in the presence of Shri. Himanshu Gupta, IAS, the Director of Education Delhi. Through this MOU, the Youth4Jobs Foundation will gain access to all government schools in Delhi, and the DOE will mandate these schools.



EVENTS

"Hyderabad US Consulate and Youth4Jobs Collaborate for International Purple Festival's Online Curtain Raiser Featuring Artist Nolan-Ryan Trowe"

Youth4Jobs partnered with the Hyderabad US Consulate to host an online Curtain Raiser for the International Purple Festival in GOA, featuring Nolan-Ryan Trowe. Nolan, an artist skilled in various disciplines hailing from California, served as the 2024 Light Work Artist in Residence. His creations have been showcased in renowned publications like The New Yorker, The New York Times, and The Nation, and are included in the permanent collections of prestigious institutions such as The Museum of Fine Arts Houston and The Museum of the City of New York.



Empowering Speech and Hearing - Impaired Youth: Success of Youth4Jobs Job Fair and Swarajability Portal

Youth4Jobs in collaboration with the Ministry of Disability, state of Maharashtra organized a job on 23rd December solely for speech and hearing-impaired youth. It was a huge success with over 250+ Speech and Hearing Impaired youth and 30+ companies participating. Youth4jobs was awarded for its effort in disability segment. Mr. Ashwajit Dhoke spoke about the Swarajability portal and how it empowers people with disabilities. He also spoke about other programs of youth4jobs.



OUR WORK TOUCHES LIVES

WE DO is our latest Global initiative for the most vulnerable, women with disabilities. We hope to create a model which operates at scale in partnership with global players interested in this space

We empower Women - Listen to their Stories

Tara Kulkarni

Locomotor

Tara Kulkarni, an intermediate graduate and an individual with a 50% locomotor disability, is a resilient person. She faced several setbacks while attempting to establish her own business, but her life changed when she discovered the Youth4Jobs Foundation's Grassroot Academy Divyang Mitra. She enrolled in their self-employment training program, specifically the Micro Enterprise 30 Days training. Tara is now financially independent and can support her family, as she owns a business generating an annual income of Rs. 1,44,000.



Tabassum Shaikh

Locomotor Impairment

Tabassum Shaikh faced challenges due to a locomotor impairment caused by being infected by Polio at the age of two. Her formative years were spent undergoing multiple surgeries. Despite these obstacles, her determination led her to pursue education in Pune. During her studies, she discovered Youth4Jobs and enrolled in their training program. Following the successful completion of her training, Tabassum secured a position as an Office Assistant, earning a monthly salary of ₹13,000. Her employment not only enables her to sustain herself but also contributes to supporting her family.



STORIES FROM THE GROUND

Anirudh

Visual Impairment

Anirudh says, " Despite having graduated with a B.Com and an MBA in Human Resources, I struggled to secure a job due to my 90% visual impairment. Discovering Youth4Jobs Foundation gave me a new lease of life. Under their training program I acquired soft skills, communication abilities, and computer proficiency. Following the training, I applied at Amazon and was selected for the Alexa project. I am now financially independent with a salary of 2.5 lakhs per annum".

[Listen to him !](#)



Ishwar Ashok Patil

Locomotor

Ishwar Ashok Patil expressed "Amidst financial struggles and battling my disability, I completed 12th grade and pursued ITI. Despite attending job interviews, my lack of confidence and communication skills led to repeated failures, leaving me in a state of despair and depression over the years. However, a miraculous turning point emerged through Youth4Jobs, a beacon of hope for persons with disabilities (PwDs). Enrolled in Divyang Mitr's Grassroot Academy program, I realized the value of unique job skills crucial for interviews and work sustainability. The training offered practical knowledge in communication, job proficiency, financial management, and essential life skills. Thanks to their support, an interview opportunity arose, leading to my successful placement at the Maharashtra State Electricity Board in Dhule, with an annual income of Rs. 1,98,000".



PRESS AND MEDIA



**RADIO
UDAAN**
॥ वाचं धेनुमुपासीत ॥
॥ Knowledge is Power ॥



BADALTA DAUR

Meet Ms. Meera Shenoy, the
visionary behind Youth 4 Jobs in the
transformative program, Badalta Daur



www.radioudaan.com



SUBSCRIBE





Catch our Director, Meera Shenoy, as she delves into a captivating conversation on the radio program 'Badalta Daur' at RADIO UDAAN—an inclusive haven for Persons with Disabilities. Explore her insightful reflections on challenges, triumphs, and her profound journey in the realm of disability. Ready to dive into this riveting dialogue?

Full video

'The business of business isn't only about making money, but also about making a difference'



(L-R) Madhupee Bhaumik, Amit Vatsyayan, Bhaskar Chatterjee, Anurag Pratap, Medha Oka and Meera Shenoy

The first panel discussion of the day revolved around "CSR as a business strategy: Linking purpose and profit" and was moderated by Bhaskar Chatterjee. The panellists included Anurag Pratap, vice president and CSR leader, Capgemini India Private Limited; Medha Oka, executive director, India Sponsorship Committee; Meera Shenoy, founder-CEO, Youth 4 Jobs; Amit Vatsyayan, partner, Ernst & Young LLP; and Madhupree Bhaumik, youth representative from Indus Valley World School. "The business of business isn't only about making money, but also about making a difference" emerged as one of the leading takeaways during a conversation that touched upon the role of State governments in CSR, the differences between sponsorships and donations, and the need to prioritise sustainability as part of CSR initiatives.

हरियाणा में 35,000 दिव्यांगों को मिलेगा रोजगार: ओपी यादव

khaskhabar.com : गुरुवार, 18 मई 2023 5:33 PM



हरियाणा के सामाजिक न्याय एवं अधिकारिता राज्य मंत्री श्री ओ पी सादर की प्रतिक्रिया में हरियाणा विधानसभा आनुक की राजकुमार मकदम बंशीराम ने 'यूथ और वीम' कंपनी के साथ एक समझौता ज्ञापन पर हस्ताक्षर करने लगते ज्ञापन का आदान-प्रदान करते हुए। (18.05.23)

THE WEEK MAGAZINE THE WEEK TV SUBSCRIBE

BPCL Launches "Silent Voices" Initiative on India's 77th Independence Day

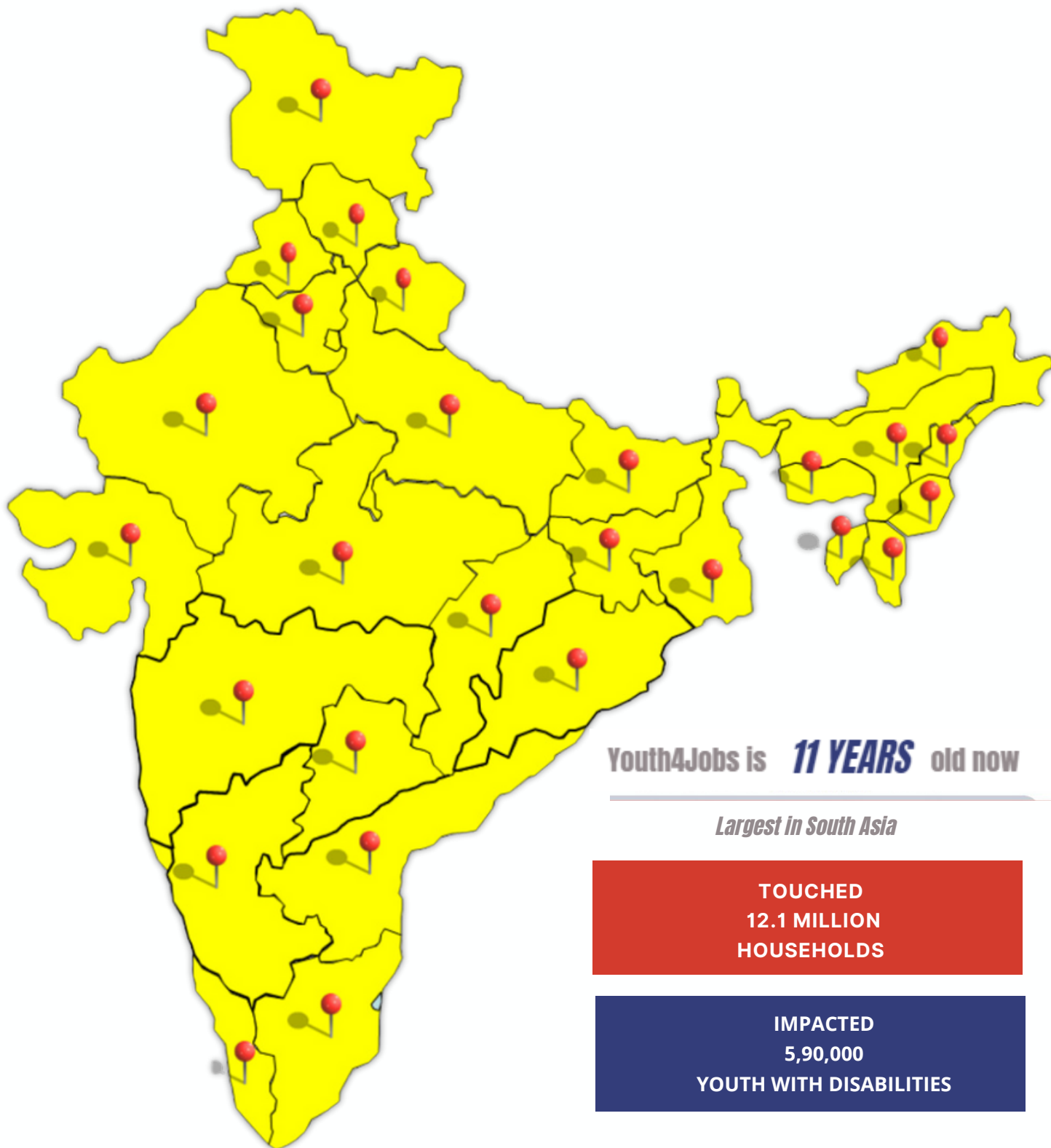
PTI | Updated: August 17, 2023 16:57 IST

Mumbai, Maharashtra, India (NewsVoir)

Marked by the celebration of India's 77th Independence Day, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited ("BPCL") joined forces with Youth4Jobs to launch the "Silent Voices" initiative. This program aims to foster socioeconomic independence by championing inclusivity and diversity, providing equal opportunities for specially-abled youth within the mainstream workforce.

With a vision to ignite hope and prosperity, Silent Voices aims to offer more than 250 hearing and speech-impaired young minds the chance to shine at 90 BPCL fuel stations nationwide. In bustling cities such as Delhi, Mumbai, Navi Mumbai, Pune, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Gurgaon, Noida, and Kolkata, these talented individuals will utilize signs and gestures to provide customer service, ensuring fuelling experience.

OUR PRESENCE PAN-INDIA



40% of our
Workforce are PwDs

25% - Young Women

NGO Connect -1025
Company Connect -1100
Govt Connect - 645 Departments

 www.youth4jobs.org

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This challenging yet transformational work could not have been done without your support.
Write to us at info@youth4jobs.org on how we can together make a larger difference.