


## Welcoming the Budget



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The Union Budget 2026–27 sends a strong signal to India’s enterprise ecosystem: credit expansion is now a national priority.

With a ₹10,000 crore SME Growth Fund and ₹2,000 crore top-up dedicated to self-reliant micro entrepreneurs, the direction is clear: empower small businesses to think bigger.

These allocations can strengthen working capital cycles, encourage formalisation and help enterprises invest in technology, talent and market expansion.

When credit flows with intent, growth follows with confidence.

BYST clusters across the nation gathered on 1st of February 2026 to watch the live telecast of the Union Budget 2026. The collective viewing helped mentors and entrepreneurs better understand the Budget’s implications, policy directions and opportunities relevant to their journeys.



“Focused investment in AI, digital skills, manufacturing, and vocational training—aligned with industry needs—is essential for building a future-ready workforce.”

- Jaykishn Verma, Entrepreneur, BYST Kalahandi

# Donor Spotlight

## JK Tyre & Industries Limited



### Digital Grampreneur® Development Programme

Bharatiya Yuva Shakti Trust (BYST), in partnership with JK Tyre & Industries Limited, is implementing the Digital Grampreneur® Development Programme to promote entrepreneurship in rural and semi-urban communities of Sriperumbudur, Tamil Nadu. The initiative provides aspiring entrepreneurs with training, mentorship, and access to financial linkages, enabling them to establish sustainable enterprises and generate employment.

### Programme Impact (FY 2023-26)



**147**  
Entrepreneurs Supported



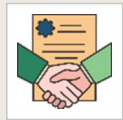
**76**  
Women Entrepreneurs Supported



**102**  
Mentors Trained and Accredited for MI and MDP



**34**  
SC/ST Entrepreneurs Supported



**06**  
LoCs Signed with Leading NGOs and Training Institutions



**1,375**  
Jobs Created

## The Sirpur Paper Mills Ltd.



### Social & Green Entrepreneurship Development Programme

Bharatiya Yuva Shakti Trust (BYST), in partnership with The Sirpur Paper Mills Ltd. (SPML), is implementing the Social & Green Entrepreneurship Development Programme with the aim of *turning job seekers into job creators*. The programme promotes entrepreneurship by providing training, mentorship, and financial linkages to aspiring entrepreneurs, particularly women and youth from underserved communities.

Since its launch in June 2023, the initiative has supported several entrepreneurs in establishing and expanding their businesses, enabling them to generate livelihoods and create employment in their communities, in Kagaz Nagar, Telangana.

### Programme Impact (June 2023 - Jan 2026)



**129**  
Entrepreneurs Supported



**49**  
Women Entrepreneurs Supported



**93**  
Mentors Trained and Accredited for MI and MDP



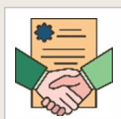
**24**  
SC Entrepreneurs Supported



**09**  
ST Entrepreneurs Supported



**25**  
High-Flyer Entrepreneurs Created



**05**  
LoCs Signed with Leading NGOs and Training Institutions



**226**  
Jobs Created

## Success Story

### Mukesh – Growing a Successful Dry Fruit Business



Mukesh, an entrepreneur from Kancheepuram, Tamil Nadu, after completing his B.E in Mechanical Engineering in 2020, He began working in the mechanical field. Mukesh always aspired to create something of his own. After three years of working, he decided to follow his entrepreneurial dream.

His inspiration came from someone very close to him—his mother. For nearly a decade, she had worked in a dry fruit shop, gaining deep knowledge of the business. Observing her experience and understanding the potential of the dry fruit market motivated Mukesh to step into the same

sector and build a business of his own.

While exploring ways to start his venture, Mukesh came to know about Bharatiya Yuva Shakti Trust (BYST) through a friend. He attended counselling and training sessions that helped him shape his business idea and develop a proper business plan. With the guidance of his mentor, Mr. Haribhaskar, and the support of BYST, Mukesh secured a loan of ₹4.5 lakh to establish his business, Athi Varadhar Dry Fruits.

Today, his wholesale dry fruit business records an annual turnover of around ₹60 lakh. Mukesh now aims to build his own brand and introduce automated packaging to expand his enterprise further.

### Thakur Anushabai – Building a Sustainable Livelihood



Thakur Anushabai, a 35-year-old entrepreneur from Kagaznagar, Telangana, runs M/S. Shree Ganesh Tiffin Center. After losing her husband, she became the sole provider for her two children and elderly father-in-law. Determined to support her family, she continued running the family's small tiffin business.

She came to know about the BYST–SPML programme through an awareness programme in her locality and approached BYST for support. With their guidance, she secured a loan of ₹1.98 lakh from Union Bank of India, which helped her purchase equipment and strengthen her business.

Today, her tiffin center earns around ₹1,500–₹2,000 per day and provides employment to three people, including two women helpers. Anushabai now plans to expand her menu and grow the business further, creating more livelihood opportunities in her community.

## Award

### Devi Awards

On 15 December 2025, Ms. Lakshmi V. Venkatesan, Founding and Managing Trustee of BYST, received Devi Awards 2025, organized by The New Indian Express, in New Delhi. The Devi Awards honours and recognizes achievers from diverse fields who drive social change, celebrate resilience, and contribute to community development, highlighting both grassroots changemakers and influential role models shaping society. The event was graced by Shri Nitin Gadhkari, Union Minister ; Smt. Rekha Gupta, Chief Minister of Delhi, veteran journalist Mr. Prabhu Chawla .



## Programme Activities



BYST, in association with CISCO, successfully conducted a 10-day Auto Caravan Awareness Generation Program across Cuddalore and Villupuram districts. The initiative aimed to create awareness on entrepreneurship, self-employment opportunities, and BYST's mentoring and financial support services.

The program was formally inaugurated on 18th Dec. '25 and flagged off by Mr. Vibith, Tamil Nadu Startup & Innovation Mission. The Auto Caravan covered multiple blocks and villages through continuous outreach activities. In the journey of 10 days, it covered around 1,026 km with a reach to around 16,500 people. It also offered counselling to 35+ individuals.



On 29 January 2026, BYST team presented the progress and achievements of the Pudukkottai Cluster at the ITC Partners Review Meeting in Coimbatore. They highlighted key activities such as entrepreneur support, training programs, loan facilitation, enterprise growth, and field progress. The presentation also covered success stories, challenges faced, and future strategies, while enabling discussions, feedback, and planning for stronger collaboration with ITC partners.

BYST – JK Paper Rayagada actively participated in the popular CHAITI Festival, a five-day grand event organized by the Government Administration in Rayagada, attracting over 10 lakh visitors.

BYST set up an information and product display stall, receiving an encouraging response and valuable leads, especially from tribal and SC/ST communities. The event also facilitated product display and market linkage, enabling entrepreneurs to showcase their products and explore new business opportunities.



BYST-VJA, Participated in RTIH Exhibition and Summit on Grassroot Entrepreneurs Challenges and opportunities in Mangalagiri

BYST Hyderabad hosted a Mentor–Mentee Get-together on 23rd December, bringing together mentors, mentees, and panel members for meaningful interaction. The programme was graced by Mr. S. Sridhar (AGM, SBI SMECCC Cyberabad), Mr. K.S.R.S. Prasad (Chief Manager, GSS–SBI Cyberabad), and Mr. K. Guru (Assistant Director, MSME), who shared insights on MSME schemes and opportunities.

Mentors were honored with Accreditation Certificates, and selected mentees received Certificates recognizing milestones in their entrepreneurial journey. Special thanks to Mr. Dayakar Reddy Garu for coordinating the stage proceedings and making the event engaging.



Kotak-BYST Pune conducted an IESP Meeting at the BYST office



The Mentor Mobile Clinic activity successfully conducted by the BYST Kolhapur Cluster on Friday, 6th February 2026, to provide on-field mentoring support and guidance to BYST entrepreneurs.

**BYST- Ashok Leyland Foundation Kolli Hills cluster**

Awareness Generation Programme (AGP) was conducted in the Government ITI, Semmedu. After the session, counselling forms were collected from the participants. The interested candidates were subsequently invited to the BYST office for a counselling session with the mentors.



## Building Cyber Awareness and Financial Hygiene - A Training Programme organized in collaboration with Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)

This multi-state initiative helped strengthen cyber awareness and financial hygiene among women entrepreneurs by equipping them with practical knowledge on digital security, safe financial practices, and the responsible use of online business tools. Through focused workshops conducted across selected clusters, the programme enabled participants to confidently adopt digital platforms, reduce risks related to cyber fraud, and improve their financial management skills, supporting the sustainable growth of women-led MSMEs.

By encouraging secure digital participation and enhancing financial literacy, the initiative contributed to larger goals of financial inclusion, women's economic empowerment, and building a safer digital business ecosystem in India. The programme was conducted in collaboration with CII and its partners, in Faridabad, Rayagada, Ramgarh, Pune, and Kolhapur clusters.



## Mentoring India

Mentor Networking session at Majhighariani Group of Institute (MITS), Rayagada.

Around 25 institutional mentors participated in the networking session to gain a deeper understanding of BYST's mentoring process and the important role they play in supporting various activities organized by BYST. The session concluded with the presentation of City & Guilds accreditation certificates to all participating faculty members.



