

Quarterly Newsletter



ISSUE #13

APCCI

Adar Poonawalla Clean City Initiative

Jan-Feb-Mar 2026



Here's what has happened in the last quarter and what's to come!

The first quarter of 2026 marked a proud milestone for the Adar Poonawalla Clean City Initiative as it completes ten years of dedicated service towards building a cleaner, greener, and more sustainable Pune. What began as a focused effort to address urban waste management has evolved into a city-wide movement powered by citizen participation, partnerships, and collective responsibility.

Over the past decade, the initiative has consistently worked to strengthen sustainable waste practices, encourage behavioural change, and build awareness around environmental responsibility. This quarter reflected that growing momentum, with a significant increase in volunteering activities, as individuals, corporates, and youth groups stepped forward to contribute their time and energy to the cause of a cleaner city.

Our Initiatives like Mission Sustainable Marathons continued to demonstrate how large public events can be organised responsibly, ensuring efficient waste management and promoting the idea of waste-neutral sporting events. At the same time, the Clean City Talks series reached diverse audiences across institutions and communities, creating meaningful dialogue around sustainability, responsible consumption, and environmental stewardship. As we celebrate ten years of impact, we remain committed to strengthening community engagement and advancing innovative solutions that will help shape a cleaner and more sustainable urban future for Pune.

Team apcci

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January 2026 marked a significant milestone for the Adar Poonawalla Clean City Initiative (APCCI) as it completed 10 years of driving sustainable urban transformation. Inspired by 'Swachh Bharat Mission', Industrialist and Philanthropist Mr. Adar Poonawalla announced the initiative in 2015 by committing personal funds to launch APCCI as a focused, mission-driven effort to enhance public sanitation and foster civic pride in Pune. The initiative was formally inaugurated in January 2016.

What began as a bold vision has evolved into a technology-driven public-private partnership that has redefined how cities can collaborate, innovate, and engage citizens to create cleaner, healthier urban spaces.

At the heart of the initiative lies civic collaboration, technology-driven solutions and citizens engagement. By working closely with municipal bodies, sanitation workers, urban planners, the initiative has strengthened city systems rather than replacing them. This collaborative model has contributed to a better impact. Technology-driven solutions, has been a game changer. From data-led waste management systems and GPS-enabled collection vehicles to real-time monitoring dashboards, technology has brought transparency, efficiency, and accountability to urban cleanliness efforts. These tools have helped cities move from reactive clean-ups to proactive, preventive strategies.

Equally vital is citizen engagement. The initiative has consistently focused on turning residents into active stakeholders through awareness campaigns, digital platforms, community programs, and school outreach. Supporting various volunteer-led initiatives like cleanliness drives and post-marathon clean-ups and by encouraging behavioural change and shared ownership, cleanliness has become a collective responsibility rather than a top-down mandate.

As the Adar Poonawalla Clean City Initiative steps into its second decade, it stands as a powerful example of how purpose-driven leadership, smart technology, and engaged citizens can come together to build cleaner, more resilient cities for the future.



Moments that remind us that honesty and humanity still thrive !

When we experience honesty and strong human values in someone's behaviour, the world around us begins to feel more positive. It gives rise to a renewed sense of hope, reminding us that truly good people still exist. A few recent incidents brought about this very feeling. In two recent incidents, our Waste Warriors went beyond their duties and safely returned valuable lost items to their original owners. In the first incident, driver Mahesh Sable and operator Rohit Sathe returned a high-end mobile phone that was found during regular work, while in the second incident, driver Anil Sable and operator Prajwal Jagdale returned a purse containing valuable documents like Aadhar card, credit card, driving license. The process was led by Supervisors Farooque Bangi, Vivek Khadtare and Dinesh Bhandari.

The owners of the items expressed their appreciation for the integrity shown by the waste warriors. In recognition of their honesty and for upholding the brand's core values, the waste warriors were felicitated. at the Adar Poonawalla Clean City Initiative (APCCI) office. Mr. Krishnan Komandur, Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Malhar Karavande, Chief Operating Officer, Mr. Ashish Marathe, General Manager and Satya Natarajan, Lead Volunteer APCCI were present on the occasion.

These are not just two incidents; such things are experienced repeatedly and every time the valuables are safely delivered to the original owner without any expectations. There is a structured process, which makes things simpler for the supervisors and team members.

Their actions brought immense relief and trust to those who had lost something valuable. These acts may seem simple, but they reflect honesty, responsibility, and deep respect for the community.



Building a Culture of Waste Management Starts With Us

Creating a sustainable future requires more than policies and technology—it demands a cultural shift that begins at the individual level. Emphasizing this crucial message, Mr. Sandeep Kanetkar, Founder of Smart Enviro Systems Pvt. Ltd., addressed young minds at Clean City Talks, an initiative by the Adar Poonawalla Clean City Initiative (APCCI). The initiative aims to explore leadership and sustainability through real-world experiences shared by professionals across sectors.

Speaking to a group of college students who have chosen internships in the field of waste management, Mr. Kanetkar highlighted the urgent need for a culture of proper waste management. He stressed that meaningful change starts with individual responsibility and must be nurtured from a young age, particularly through schools. His presentation offered valuable insights into various aspects of waste management, with a special focus on the challenges associated with organic waste handling.

A key takeaway from the talk was the importance of maintaining dignity and respect for waste warriors—the backbone of any waste management system. Mr. Kanetkar underlined that acknowledging their contribution is essential to building an inclusive and effective sustainability ecosystem.

Mr. Krishnan Komandur, CEO, APCCI, Mr. Malhar Karwande, COO, Mr. Aashish Marathe, General Manager, and Mr. Sathya Natarajan, Lead Volunteer, APCCI were present on the occasion. Clean City Talks continues to serve as a powerful platform for dialogue, learning, and inspiration—encouraging the next generation to take ownership of cleaner, more sustainable cities.



APCCI Highlights Its Initiatives at the Pune International Business Summit

The Pune International Business Summit 2026, recently organised by MCCIA at Hotel JW Marriott, brought together industry leaders and key decision-makers from diverse sectors for a two-day conference. The Adar Poonawalla Clean City Initiative (APCCI) marked its active presence at the summit by showcasing its work through a dedicated pavilion at the exhibition held alongside the event.

The APCCI pavilion attracted several industry professionals and leaders who engaged in meaningful discussions around waste management and sustainability. Visitors acknowledged APCCI's significant role in maintaining city cleanliness and promoting sustainable practices in Pune.

With rapid economic growth leading to increased consumption, the need for effective waste management has become more critical than ever. Addressing this growing challenge, APCCI continues to create awareness among citizens as well as industry stakeholders through a range of initiatives. Its participation in the Pune International Business Summit formed an important part of these outreach efforts. A valuable platform for exchanging ideas on sustainability, where prominent business leaders appreciated APCCI's impactful work. Many shared that they had personally witnessed APCCI's 'waste warriors' and advanced machinery in action across the city.

Several visitors highlighted the growing urgency of waste management for a sustainable future and recognised APCCI as a benchmark initiative in urban sustainability.



Road Safety Week



Runal Mulla, Senior Police Inspector, Training Division for Traffic Awareness, led a team of senior traffic officials to conduct a road safety workshop at the APCCI office as part of Road Safety Initiative

Visit of HH Jigmed Wangchuk Namgyal, founder Sustainable Ladakh Initiative Foundation



Road Safety Week

Over 450 of our dedicated waste warriors actively spread awareness about traffic rules at more than 50 major chowks across Pune



Pehel -2026

APCCI participated in Pune's largest e-waste collection drive Pehel-2026



Volunteering Activities

Mission Sustainable Marathons



Pune City Marathon



**LSOM (Last Sunday of Month)
Pashan Marathon**



Ekal Half Run Marathon



CIG-RID-THON



Kidz-a-thon 2026



**AMC Half Marathon hosted by
Association of Medical Consultants**

Volunteering Activities

Mission Sustainable Marathons



The Global Women's Half Marathon



Run for Diabetes



Pharmathon



The Spirit of Volunteering and Purpose



"A volunteer is someone who imbibes qualities like empathy, curiosity, learning & a vision to bring about change. I like to be associated with APCCI because, here is a team which works on a larger scale to bring about a change, to work for the welfare of the people with no expectations at all. The relentless efforts in this direction gives me immense satisfaction and inspires me to do more."

-Sathya Natarajan, Lead Volunteer, APCCI

Volunteering Activities

Clealiness Drives



Pehel-2026 - Pune city's largest awareness & collection drive for e-waste and plastic waste



Cleanliness Drive at Vetar Tekdi by MyPrakriti



Cleanup drive organised by 'Together India' at Kharadi



iCleanliness Drive by Climate troopers, SEAP, Panchjanya foundation near Nansahab Peshwe samadhi



Cleanliness Drive at Symbiosis College



Students of FLAME University team up for Cleanliness drive

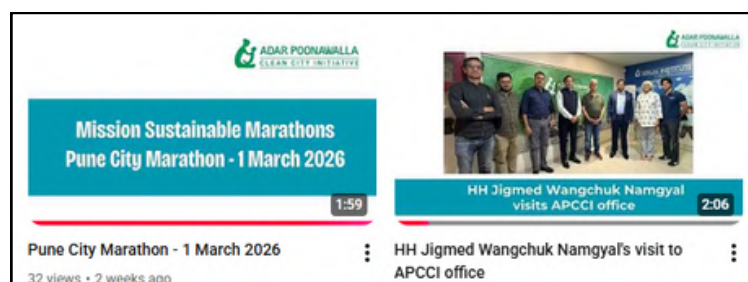
Engaging with the young changemakers



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Mr. Krishnan Komandur, CEO, Adar Poonawalla Clean City Initiative (APCCI) was invited by NICMAR University to deliver a guest lecture. Mr. Komandur gave a talk on “Leading Innovation in Technology Driven and Sustainable Waste Management for the Betterment of Society.” The session highlighted the current waste management scenario, key problem statements, and scalable, technology-driven solutions aimed at building cleaner and more sustainable urban environments. It also offered an overview of APCCI’s on-ground operations and its commitment to driving impactful change.



BLOG

Resolution for a Cleaner City: Waste Management begins at Home

January 09, 2026

A new year brings fresh beginnings, a new hope and resolve to do something good. It is a powerful opportunity to build a cleaner, healthier city starting right at home. By making simple, consistent changes to how we manage waste, every household can contribute to a greener future. Some simple steps can go a long way in contributing to a cleaner city. Begin with waste segregation. Proper waste management starts by separating waste where it is created. Keep two or three bins at home—one for wet waste like food leftovers, one for dry waste such as paper, plastic, metal, and glass, and

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Building a Culture of Waste Management Starts With Us

February 09, 2026



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A decade of technology driven solutions, civic collaboration and people engagement

January 26, 2026

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Moments that remind us that honesty and humanity still thrive !

February 17, 2026



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APCCI Promotes Road Safety Awareness During Road Safety Week

March 09, 2026



The Adar Poonawalla Clean City Initiative (APCCI) actively participated in Road Safety Week to spread awareness about traffic rules and responsible road behavior. More than 450 waste warriors from APCCI took part in the campaign, holding placards and engaging with citizens at over 50 major chowks across Pune. Through direct interaction, they emphasized the importance of following traffic regulations to ensure the safety of drivers, pedestrians, and commuters. A

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March 02, 2026



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World Water Day- 22 March 2026 : Can we as Individuals contribute towards cleaner water?

March 22, 2026

World Water Day reminds us of the vital role water plays in sustaining life and the urgent need to protect it from pollution. Today, water bodies across the world are increasingly contaminated due to improper waste disposal, industrial discharge, and everyday human activities. Waste and water pollution not only harm aquatic ecosystems but also threaten human health and future water security. When wet and dry waste are mixed, most of it ends up in landfills. In these dumps, organic (wet) waste decomposes and releases a toxic liquid called leachate. This leachate seeps into the soil and can

