

July 2026: The Ignite Foundation selected for the Asia-Pacific Cooperative Youth Summit (APCYS)

WHAT'S INSIDE THIS EDITION

- School for Social Transformation - 11th edition
- Ignite @ UN Conference of Parties COP 17
- Demo Day SSTxTinkerhub, Technology for Social change
- The Ignite Foundation @ World Youth Development Forum
- Insights & opinion — Mission and Vision: 5 differences
- Founder's note, fundraiser update & an impact story
- Munrothuruth: Documentary by Ignite Alumni
- 20+ Youth Training in Kerala

HIGHLIGHT

HIGHLIGHT OF THE MONTH

Invited to China for Asia Pacific Youth Summit and Hackathon

The Ignite Foundations **Kerala Social Impact Collective**, a cooperative envisioned for alumni of the School for Social Transformation (SST), was selected as one of ten teams from across the Asia-Pacific region to participate in the Asia-Pacific Cooperative Youth Summit (APCYS) 5.0 Hackathon. Representing The Ignite Foundation, **Ijas Hakkim and Naji Mahfood** will present the Kerala Social Impact Collective at the Hackathon in Hangzhou, China.



SOCIAL EXPERIMENTS @ CHANGEMAKERS ASHRAM

SOCIAL EXPERIMENTS SUPPORTED BY SST COMMUNITY ACTION SEED FUND AND MENTORSHIP

AGE WITH DIGNITY

Kerala is aging rapidly, yet many older adults lack spaces where they can simply connect, converse, and feel valued. What if communities created regular gatherings that allow people to age with dignity? **Koodanoridam**, a community action project by School for Social Transformation alumnus Irshad in Kozhikode, brings this idea to life through weekend evening circles at the Changemakers Ashram, where elders come together to share stories, experiences, and companionship.



COMING UP NEXT MONTH

- Final Presentation of SSTxTinkerhub, Solve4Public Lab: At Trivandrum where participants will present technological innovations they have developed for identified challenges in Local Self Governance institutions
- Social Work Student Camp for MSW students in Kerala at Changemakers Ashram
- Documentary Screening of Muhzina
- Ignite at COP 17 of the UN

UPDATES FROM US

A round-up of what happened this month across programs, the Changemakers Ashram, and partnerships.

PROGRAMS

SST 11.0 applications

Application to the 11th Edition of the School for Social Transformation (SST) will begin in mid-August 2026. Supported by the Azim Premji Foundation, SST 11 will be fully funded and will also provide participants with an opportunity to receive a seed grant of up to ₹10,000 to support their projects.

CHANGE MAKERS ASHRAM

Inviting Seeds to Changemakers Ashram, Chakkittappara

Changemakers Ashram requires seeds and saplings for its farming and harvesting activities. If you would like to contribute seeds or sponsor saplings for the Ashram, please reach out to Roshna at +91 75610 58970. Environmental restoration and climate-focused initiatives at the Ashram are being led by SST alumna Roshna, Vijitha and intern Sameer.

TEAM & OPS

Ignite Foundation at The World Youth Development Forum

Our Co-founder, Jaseel C. K., represented India at the World Youth Development Forum in China, where he spoke about the paradigm shift needed in youth work—from volunteering to social entrepreneurship. The Ignite Foundation's School for Social Transformation (SST) was among 200 projects selected from across the world for the Forum. During the Global Youth Acceleration Week and the World Youth Development Forum, Jaseel also presented the SST model, showcasing our approach to nurturing young changemakers.

EDUCATION 4 SOCIAL CHANGE

Centre for Youth Impact and Training

Under the leadership of Sulfeekar Aly P. K., who leads Level 1 Engagement at The Ignite Foundation, more than 20 training programmes were conducted across Kozhikode and Malappuram during the month of July. The sessions focused on teamwork, leadership, and active citizenship, engaging young people through experiential learning.

ALUMNI PROJECTS

3 Projects of SST Alumni Started at Perumathura, Trivandrum

Three community action projects—ranging from a campaign against child labour to women's education and a back-to-school initiative—have been launched by SST 10 alumni in the coastal village of Perumathura, Thiruvananthapuram. Supported through seed funding, six alumni with an average age of 20 are leading these initiatives under the mentorship of our partner, TwoByThree Foundation.



From the Field: Ignite team visit at Perumathura

ACHIEVEMENTS THIS MONTH

[5000+] YOUTH IMPACTED	[20+] TRAINING EVENTS	[10+] PROJECT SUPPORTED WITH SST SEED FUND	[9] ACTIVE SSTX PROJECTS	[20+] ACTIVE SST PROJECTS
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SST- School for Social Transformation

SSTx- School for Social Transformation in Association with

INSIGHTS

FROM THE TEAM

Transformation Isn't a Program, It's a Process

If there's one thing running leadership programs for youngsters has taught me, it's that we've grown obsessed with speed, fast results, quick wins, instant transformation. But young people don't grow like that, and honestly, neither do any of us.

I've watched fellows walk into our programs unsure of themselves, quiet, hesitant, unsure if they even belonged in the room and I've watched some of them take years, not weeks, to actually become who that experience nudged them toward. I remember fellows who broke down mid-way of the program, convinced they weren't cut out for it, only to return a year later leading their own initiatives back home. I've seen young people who couldn't hold a conversation with a stranger on day one go on to negotiate with local authorities, organize their communities, or start something of their own. None of that happened during the program. It happened much after, quietly, in the everyday choices they made once we weren't watching anymore.

The programs were never the transformation itself. It was a spark. What came after the failures, the reflections, the mentors who stuck around, the friendships that outlasted the program that's where the real shift happened.

We keep trying to fit growth into neat program cycles because that's what funders and frameworks demand. But people aren't KPIs. They need space to stumble, circle back, question things, and rebuild slowly. Every young person I've worked with has moved at their own pace, and the moment I stopped expecting a fixed timeline, I started seeing the actual depth of what was unfolding in them.

So maybe our job isn't to "transform" young people in a fixed window. Maybe it's to walk alongside them long enough that they transform themselves on their own time, in their own way.

— Abhilash John, Co-Founder, The Ignite Foundation

OPINION

GUEST / FOUNDER PERSPECTIVE

Mission vs Vision: 5 Key Differences Every Changemaker Should Know

Many organizations use *mission* and *vision* interchangeably, but they serve distinct purposes. Understanding the difference is essential for founders, nonprofit leaders, and changemakers because these statements guide strategy, decision-making, and organizational culture.

A **mission** defines what an organization does today. It explains its purpose, the people it serves, and how it creates value. In simple terms, it answers: **Why do we exist, what do we do, and for whom?**

A **vision**, on the other hand, describes the future the organization wants to create. It is aspirational and long-term, providing direction and inspiration. It answers the question: **What kind of future are we working toward?**

Here are five key differences:

- **Mission** focuses on the present; **Vision** focuses on the future.
- **Mission** is action-oriented; **Vision** is aspiration-oriented.
- **Mission** guides day-to-day operations; **Vision** shapes long-term strategy.
- **Mission** is practical and measurable; **Vision** is inspirational and ambitious.
- **Mission** explains the organization's role; **Vision** describes the change it seeks to achieve.

A strong mission and vision work together. The mission keeps an organization grounded in its daily work, while the vision ensures those efforts contribute to a meaningful long-term impact. Together, they provide clarity, alignment, and motivation for teams and stakeholders alike.

Read the complete article: [Mission vs. Vision: 5 Key Differences Every Changemaker Should Know](#)

— [Author: Jaseel C K]

TESTIMONIALS

I had been planning to organise a learning programme for social work students and recent graduates for quite some time. Changemakers Ashram became the ideal venue for this initiative, offering an immersive space for grassroots learning, community engagement, and partnerships.

— Thufail Pilakkal, Assistant Professor and coordinator of Social Work Student camp

FUNDRAISER

Help The Ignite Foundation Represent India at United Nations COP17

The Ignite Foundation has received an official invitation to participate in the **United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) COP 17**, to be held in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, from **17–28 August 2026**. Representing The Ignite Foundation, **Jaseel C K** and **Ijas Hakkim** will showcase youth-led innovations and community-driven environmental initiatives from Kerala while building partnerships with global organizations. This is a rare opportunity to ensure that local voices contribute to international conversations on sustainability.

As a young non-profit, international participation is a significant financial challenge. We invite individuals, institutions, and well-wishers to support our travel and participation costs. **Alternatively you can send your contributions to Gpay/PhonePe of Ijas Hakkim at +91 9633994446**



EVENT SPOTLIGHT



SSTx are collaborative programs that adapt the School for Social Transformation (SST) methodology. In partnership with the TinkerHub Foundation, we hosted the **Solve4Public Lab(SSTxTinkerhub)**, where young people identified challenges within the Local Self Government (LSG) and panchayat context, engaged with community stakeholders, and developed working prototypes through a human-centred design process.

The Demo Day will be held on **1 August 2026**, where participants will present their prototypes to an invited audience, including **Dr. Divya S. Iyer IAS**, Principal Secretary, Local Self Government Department, Government of Kerala.

IMPACT STORY

SUPPORTED BY SST COMMUNITY ACTION SEED FUND AND MENTORSHIP

Documenting Environmental Change in Munroe Island: Muhzina's Journey to making a documentary

Munroe Island, a group of eight islands located where the Kallada River meets Ashtamudi Lake in Kollam, has experienced environmental changes over several decades.

The region has reported increasing tidal flooding, land erosion, saltwater intrusion, and loss of habitable land.

These changes are linked to a combination of factors, including sea level rise associated with climate change, changes in river flow, and human interventions in the surrounding ecosystem. As these processes continue, they affect agriculture, fishing, housing, and other aspects of everyday life on the island.

Muhzina, an alumna of the University of Delhi from Kollam, chose Munroe Island as the focus of her ethnographic film.

The film draws on these conversations rather than external narration, allowing community members to describe their own experiences and observations.

IMPACT



Munroe Island isn't sinking in the abstract — it's sinking under someone's feet. I wanted the film to hold space for their voices first, before any data or explanation. Their stories are the evidence

- Muhzina



Instead of presenting the island only through environmental data or expert opinion, the film documents local knowledge and lived experience.

Residents speak about changing water levels, disappearing land, shifting livelihoods, and memories of places that have been altered over time.

The film serves as a record of these narratives at a time when climate change is increasingly affecting Kerala's coastal and wetland ecosystems.

MUHZINA PLANS TO SCREEN THE DOCUMENTARY IN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS, COMMUNITY SPACES, AND PUBLIC FORUMS, FOLLOWED BY DISCUSSIONS ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND VULNERABLE ECOSYSTEMS. ORGANIZATIONS AND GROUPS INTERESTED IN HOSTING A SCREENING AND CONVERSATION MAY CONTACT HER AT +91 77366 89071.

GALLERY



Jaseel C. K., Co-founder of The Ignite Foundation, presented the School for Social Transformation (SST) model at the Global Youth Acceleration Week and the World Youth Development Forum in China, sharing our approach to nurturing young changemakers.



Sulfeekar Aly P. K., Co-founder of The Ignite Foundation and Lead of the Centre for Youth Impact and Training, has facilitated over 20 training programmes across Kerala in the past month.



Changemakers Ashram offers a residential programme for alumni of The Ignite Foundation. As part of community living, residents engage in farming, and this harvest is one of the outcomes of their shared efforts.



Participants of the SSTxTinkerHub programme attended a Gramasabha to understand hyper-local challenges through direct engagement with local governance.



Twenty-four social work students from Kozhikode participated in a three-day residential Social Work Students Camp at Changemakers Ashram



A Day at Changemakers Ashram begins with morning SEWA, where residents come together to engage in farming and other shared responsibilities

ABOUT US

The Ignite Foundation is a non-profit organisation based in Kerala, India, that equips young people to become active citizens and community problem solvers. We work with aspiring social leaders, non-profit founders, and social entrepreneurs in the early stages of their journey, helping them understand local challenges, develop practical solutions, and build initiatives that respond to social and environmental issues.

Our flagship programme, the School for Social Transformation (SST), is a six-month experiential leadership programme that combines online learning, a ten-day residential immersion, mentorship, and changemaker incubation. Participants explore their own values and leadership, engage directly with communities, identify local challenges, and develop initiatives that they can implement with continued guidance and peer support.

Another vertical, the Centre for Youth Impact and Training, focuses on education for social change by promoting active citizenship, social responsibility, and youth participation through workshops and training programmes for schools, colleges, civil society organisations, and institutions.

At the centre of this ecosystem is Changemakers Ashram, located in Kozhikode, Kerala. The Ashram serves as our residential learning and incubation space, where programmes, learning camps, and community collaborations take place. It is envisioned as a space for experimentation in grassroots innovation, enabling young people to work alongside communities, test ideas, and develop responses to local social and environmental challenges.

The Ignite Foundation works with individuals at the beginning of their leadership journey, before they establish organisations or social enterprises. Rather than providing long-term incubation for established ventures, we focus on helping emerging changemakers build the knowledge, confidence, networks, and practical experience needed to take the first steps towards creating lasting change in their communities.

The Centre for Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship (CSIE) is an initiative of The Ignite Foundation focused on strengthening the social entrepreneurship ecosystem. Conceptualised as a Social Entrepreneurship Ecosystem Accelerator at the Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) in 2024, the Centre is currently in its early stage of development. CSIE brings together aspiring social entrepreneurs, practitioners, educators, researchers, and ecosystem stakeholders through education, research, innovation, and ecosystem development. The Centre currently hosts the Winter School on Social Entrepreneurship, the Design Thinking Fellowship for Social Change, and the Social Entrepreneurship Knowledge Hub, an online platform that curates learning resources and knowledge on social entrepreneurship. <https://csie.theigniteindia.com>

Get Engaged

Volunteer

Join our volunteer community at **Changemakers Ashram, Kozhikode**.

Write to: roshnakottakkat99@gmail.com

Facilitate

Interested in facilitating an upcoming **Social Work Student Camp**?

Contact: Thufail, +919539246962

Donate

Support a scholarship, fellowship, or seed grant for emerging changemakers.

Write to: ijasporedom@gmail.com

Partner

Bring **School for Social Transformation (SST)** or **SSTx** to your campus, institution, or community.

Write to: call2naji@gmail.com