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जल शक्ति मंत्रालय
पानी कानून
DEPARTMENT OF DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION
MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA



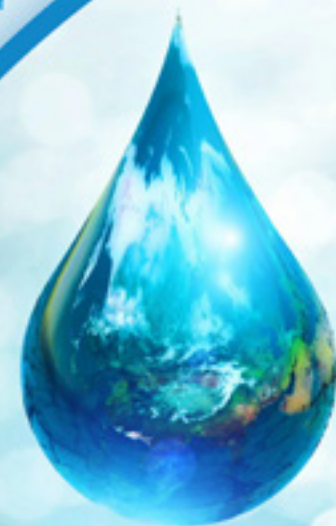
भूमि संसाधन विभाग
ग्रामीण विकास मंत्रालय
DEPARTMENT OF LAND RESOURCES
MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT

जल योद्धा

पानी की रक्षा, देश की सुरक्षा **सम्मान २०२५**

JAL YODHA

SAMMAN 2025 SAVE WATER, PROTECT COUNTRY SECURITY



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is committed
to play its role
in the
evolving
multi-dimensional
energy grid
of the Nation,
a key component
of a resurgent
economy and a
"VIKSIT BHARAT."

- Poised to expand installed capacity of power generation through existing and planned Lignite, Coal and Renewable Energy projects to more than 20,000 MW by 2030, from the present 6,731 MW.
- Reaching a Mining capacity of over 100 Million tonnes when Machhakata and Patrapara coal blocks come into operation.
- A major thrust to Renewable power projects - a 2000 MW capacity Solar project in Rajasthan and 1000 MW capacity Solar power project in Assam along with a pilot-scale Green Hydrogen project in Neyveli.
- Unwavering support through physical relief works at flood-affected cities / areas including de-watering inundated areas with high capacity industrial pumps and providing food packets to the needy during floods.
- Unflinching commitment to large-scale CSR initiatives in Education (construction of classrooms and provision of educational aids) to schools in and around Neyveli, conduct of Health camps in surrounding villages and distribution of Aid and assistive devices to the differently abled.
- Collaboration with NPTI to provide job oriented Post-Diploma and PG Diploma courses to Project Affected Persons (PAPs) of NLCIL, enabling them to get employment opportunities in premier companies.

NLC India Limited, a "Navratna" PSU with over 60 years in the energy sector, operates nationwide and is poised to play a large role in a "Viksit Bharat" with a targeted Mining Capacity of 104 MTPA and 10 GW of Thermal Power generation by 2030.

Being the first PSU to cross 1 GW of Renewable Energy generation, NLCIL also aims to reach 10.11GW renewable energy generation by 2030 with plans for Green Hydrogen and Floating solar projects.



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EDITORIAL

Jal Yodha Samman : Celebrating India's Water Warriors

Jal Yodha Samman is a prestigious national recognition that honours individuals and organizations who have shown outstanding commitment to water conservation, sustainable water management, and environmental protection in India. The award celebrates those who actively work at the grassroots level & from reviving water bodies to community-driven stewardship of water resources & helping India move toward a future of water security and sustainability. Originally known as Jal Prahari Samman, this initiative is organised annually by Sarkaritel.com in collaboration with Niti Aayog, Ministry of Jal Shakti, Ministry of Rural Development with country partners Embassy of Finland, Denmark and Israel bringing together water champions from across the country to recognise their inspiring contributions

PURPOSE AND SIGNIFICANCE

The Jal Yodha Samman aims to spotlight individuals, NGOs, civil servants, community leaders, and grassroots organisations who have implemented impactful solutions in water conservation and awareness. It serves as both a platform to acknowledge exceptional effort and a national forum to inspire others & especially youth and civic groups & to engage actively in protecting one of India's most vital natural resources. The award aligns with the broader vision of building an Atmanirbhar Jal Bharat (self-reliant water India) through innovation, public participation, and sustainable water practices.

Over the years, Jal Yodha Samman has recognised many dedicated water warriors from diverse backgrounds who have made meaningful impacts in their regions:

Shri Uma Shankar Pandey (Banda) Known for Jakni Model "Khet me Med, Med Pe Ped" Shri Popatrao Pawar, Hiware Bazaar, Shri Laxman Singh Laporiya, Shri Mohan Nagar, Betul were honoured in the year 2019 and later all these are our proud Padma Shree's in the area of water.

IMPACT AND VISION

The Jal Yodha Samman plays an important role in creating a nationwide movement for water conservation by acknowledging both traditional and innovative practices that help sustain water resources. Winners are celebrated not only for technical achievements but also for fostering community participation, awareness, and the adoption of sustainable water use practices. By recognising diverse contributions & from government officials and scientists to grassroots activists and educators & the award highlights the collective effort required to tackle India's water challenges and reinforces the idea that every community member can be a water steward.



Ameya Sathaye

Founder &
Editor-in-Chief
Sarkaritel.com
Diplomacyindia.com
Organiser
Jal Yodha Samman

Glimpses of Various Activities in the Year 2025



Glimpses of Various Activities in the Year 2025

Glimpses of Various Activities in the Year 2025



जल योद्धा सम्मान समारोह 2019 की झलकियाँ



Glimpses from Jal Yodha Samman Samaroh 2021



जल योद्धा सम्मान समारोह 2022 की झलकियाँ

Glimpses from Jal Yodha Samman Samaroh 2023



जल योद्धा सम्मान समारोह 2024 की झलकियाँ



उमा शंकर पाण्डे
पद्मश्री

“जल योद्धा” पद्मश्री
सम्मान से सम्मानित
sarkaritel.com द्वारा जल
प्रहरी 2019 में सम्मानित

जल रक्षित रक्षित : पानी विलक्षण है

जल रक्षित रक्षित : हम जल की रक्षा करेंगे जल हमारी रक्षा करेगा ऐसा वेद धर्म ग्रंथ कहते हैं जल जीवन का आधार है। जल में जीवन है, जल अनमोल है, जल विलक्षण है, जल सर्वव्यापी है, जल असाधारण है, जल राष्ट्रीय संपदा है, जल परमेश्वर है, जगन्नाथ है परमात्मा है जल शिव है, जल शंकर है, जल अमृत है, जल शक्ति है, जल ऊर्जा है। धर्म के आधार पर केवल पानी ही पवित्र करता है। भारतीय संस्कृति पूजा प्रधान है पूजा पवित्रता के लिए जल आवश्यक है। जल में आध्यात्मिक शक्तियाँ होती हैं। दुनिया की सभी पुरानी सभ्यताओं का जन्म जल के समीप अर्थात् नदियों के किनारे हुआ है। दुनिया के जितने पुराने नगर हैं वे सब नदियों किनारे बसे हैं। दुनिया के हर चीज का तापमान पानी के तापमान के मानक से नापा जाता है। आज के युग का सर्वाधिक चर्चित शब्द जल है। जल राष्ट्रीय संपदा है।

पानी हमें प्रकृति द्वारा अनमोल निःशुल्क उपहार के रूप में मिला है। जल को स्वच्छ बनाए रखने हेतु जल देवता वरुण की पूजा का विधान है। जन्म से लेकर मृत्यु पर्यन्त तक पानी का हमारे जीवन में सबसे बड़ा स्थान है। पानी में ही सारे देवता रहते हैं इसलिए जब कोई धार्मिक अनुष्ठान होता है तब उसमें सबसे पहले कलश की पूजा होती है या कलश यात्रा निकलती है। हमारे पूर्वज माता- पिता जब चारों धाम की यात्रा अथवा गंगा- जमुना दर्शन हेतु गए। कुछ लाए हों या ना लाए हों लेकिन तीर्थ से जल जरूर लाते हैं। प्रकृति ने जो पानी हमें मुफ्त में दिया है। हमने उसे बाजार में बिक्री की चीज बना दिया। भारत में पानी सभ्यता थी, संस्कृति थी, पानी आश्रय देता तबही भी करता है। पानी समाज को जोड़ता है, तोड़ता भी है। पानी को लेकर भविष्य में हम नहीं चेतें तो विश्व युद्ध निश्चित है। दुनिया में 1 मिनट में 20000 पानी की बोटल तैयार होती है 1 मिनट में दुनिया में 20000 तन मिट्टी भाकर समुद्र में जा रही है 1 मिनट में 16000 पेड़ कट रहे हैं आज हमें जरूरत है जल विश्वविद्यालय बनाने की वॉटर म्यूजियम बनाने की वॉटर लाइब्रेरी बनाने की पानी की पाठशालाएं चलाने की वॉटर लिटरेसी की

जल के अत्यधिक दोहन होने के कारण गुणवत्ता में कमी आई। भू जल संकट बढ़ा। अत्यधिक दोहन के कारण भूगर्भ जलस्तर दिनों-दिन नीचे चला जा रहा है। आजादी के पहले कई लाख तालाब, कुए ज़िंदा थे। तालाबों कुओं को कोई अनुदान सरकार से नहीं मिलता था। समाज साफ सफाई रखवाली समुदाय के आधार पर करता था। पानी बनाया नहीं बचाया जा सकता केवल बचाया जा सकता है। भारत में सामुदायिक स्तर पर जल संरक्षण की एक प्राचीन परंपरा रही है, जिसके अंतर्गत छोटे-बड़े तालाब जलाशय, बीहड़ झील, कुएं बनाए जाते थे। समुदाय द्वारा इसकी देखरेख होती थी। खेत का पानी खेत में रहे इसके लिए मेड़ बनाई जाती थी। मेड़ के ऊपर पेड़ लगाए जाते थे। यही हमारी जल संरक्षण की प्राचीन परंपरा थी। पढ़े लिखे वैज्ञानिकों ने जल संरक्षण की विधि को बदला। जल ने भी स्थान बदला दोष किसका है ? यह बता पाना बड़ा कठिन है। समाज के कुछ साधियों, सरकारों एवं स्वयंसेवी संस्थाओं के अधिकारियों ने इस दिशा में अद्भुत प्रयास किए, उनके प्रयास दिखाई भी दे रहे हैं। निःसंदेह उनके प्रयास सफल हो रहे जलवायु परिवर्तन से लड़ने में पानी मददगार होगा।

“बहती हुई मिट्टी, पानी को रोकना” : जल बचेगा तब वृक्ष होंगे, जब वृक्ष होंगे तो वर्षा होगी। सर्व विदित है कि चौमासे में होने वाली वर्षा जीव- जन्तुओं एवं वनस्पतियों को जीवन देती है। हरियाली धरती का श्रृंगार है, जहां जल वहीं हरियाली। धरती के ऐसे भूभाग जो जल विहीन हैं वे मरुस्थल बन चुके हैं। चिंता का विषय है कि भूतल पर निरन्तर जल की कमी का परिणाम है कि आज 10 प्रतिशत से अधिक मरुस्थल बढ़ गये। आवश्यकता इस बात की है जलदोहन कम हो। पौराणिक ज्ञान के माध्यम से चौमासे में होने वाली वर्षा का 20 प्रतिशत जल धरती के पेट में डालकर भूगर्भ जल स्तर को ऊपर उठाया जाय। इसके लिए राज, समाज एवं सरकार को आगे आना होगा। हमारा लक्ष्य जल स्वराज से ग्राम स्वराज होना चाहिए। जब जल रहेगा तभी देश बचेगा। रसायन मुक्त खेती प्राकृतिक भोजन की ओर हमें जाना होगा पुरखों के जल जोड़ने के सामुदायिक प्रयासों से पुनः एक बार वर्ष की बूंदों को रोक कर गांव और शहर को जल संपन्न बनना होगा



Niti Aayog

नीति आयोग

National Institution for Transforming India

NITI Aayog plays a central role in strengthening India's water and land resource management framework through a combination of policy formulation, programme evaluation, knowledge generation, and strategic advisory support. The Water and Land Resources (WLR) Division is guided by the overarching objective of ensuring sustainable access to drinking water and sanitation, while promoting efficient water resource development, groundwater conservation, watershed management, and sustainability of water resources.

It seeks to enhance ecological balance and resilience in the face of emerging challenges such as climate change, increasing water stress, and competing sectoral demands. NITI Aayog adopts a collaborative and multi-stakeholder approach in carrying out its functions. It works closely with Central Ministries, State Governments, and Union Territories, as well as with academic and research institutions, multilateral and bilateral development partners, industry stakeholders, and civil society organisations.

NITI Aayog functions in formulating policy inputs and the provision of evidence-based advisory support to governments. Through the WLR Division, it addresses complex and emerging issues such as water scarcity, climate variability, and the need for integrated approaches to water governance. NITI Aayog emphasises the use of data and analytics to support decision-making and advocates for convergence across sectors to ensure efficient and sustainable outcomes.

WLR Division undertakes the evaluation of multiple Central Sector and Centrally Sponsored Schemes across key ministries, including the Ministry of Jal Shakti and the Department of Land Resources. It also appraises a wide range of proposals, including Cabinet Notes, Preliminary Project Reports (PPRs), Detailed Project Reports (DPRs), and financial memorandums under various committees. These efforts

contribute to improving programme design, ensuring efficient utilisation of public resources, and strengthening overall policy effectiveness.

NITI Aayog also plays an important role in knowledge creation and research, undertaking analytical studies and developing policy briefs to address critical issues in the sector. One of its significant initiatives is the water budgeting exercise conducted across aspirational blocks, which provides a data-driven assessment of water availability, demand, and supply gaps at the local level.

Covering multiple states and agro-climatic zones, this exercise combines field-based analysis with inputs from digital platforms to generate actionable insights and recommendations for enhancing water security. WLR Division is engaged in developing policy briefs on topics such as strengthening used water management in peri-urban areas, enhancing water use efficiency, and promoting circular water frameworks for emerging sectors.

Beyond research and policy, the NITI Aayog is actively involved in implementation-oriented initiatives, particularly in Aspirational Districts and Blocks. The Rejuvenation of Water Bodies (RWB) initiative is a notable example, aimed at restoring and enhancing the functionality of water bodies across multiple states.

By supporting the rejuvenation of water bodies, the initiative contributes to improved groundwater recharge, enhanced irrigation potential, and increased livelihood opportunities, particularly in agriculture and allied sectors. Such interventions play a crucial role in strengthening local water security and promoting sustainable resource management at the grassroots level.

NITI Aayog also facilitates knowledge exchange and stakeholder engagement through the organisation of workshops, consultations, and thematic discussions. For instance, it has organised workshops on the reuse of treated wastewater, bringing together policymakers, practitioners, and experts to deliberate on strategies for promoting water reuse and advancing a circular water economy. Similarly, it has convened discussions on water supply challenges in the Himalayan region, highlighting the need for innovative and context-specific solutions to address issues such as climate-induced variability, infrastructure constraints, and service delivery challenges.

Overall, the Water and Land Resources NITI Aayog functions as a key policy platform within NITI Aayog, integrating policy, research, evaluation, and field-level action to drive sustainable outcomes in the water and land sectors. Its work is characterised by a strong emphasis on data-driven decision-making, inter-sectoral convergence, climate resilience, and the promotion of efficient and circular resource use. Through its comprehensive and collaborative approach, the NITI Aayog contributes significantly to advancing India's goals of water security, sustainable development, and ecological balance.



भूमि संसाधन विभाग
ग्रामीण विकास मंत्रालय
DEPARTMENT OF LAND RESOURCES
MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT

सत्यमेव जयते

Watershed Development in India: Transforming Rural Landscapes through WDC-PMKSY 2.0

Introduction : Sustainable management of land and water resources is critical for ensuring agricultural productivity, environmental conservation, and rural livelihoods in India. Recognizing the urgent need to address land degradation, water scarcity, and climate vulnerabilities, the Department of Land Resources (DoLR) under the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India, has been implementing watershed development programmes across the country. A key initiative in this direction is the Watershed Development Component of the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (WDC-PMKSY 2.0). This programme focuses on restoring ecological balance while enhancing the productivity of rainfed and degraded areas through a holistic and community-driven approach.

Objectives of WDC-PMKSY 2.0

The WDC-PMKSY 2.0 programme aims to:

- Address land degradation and soil erosion
- Improve water availability in rainfed regions
- Enhance agricultural productivity and crop intensity
- Strengthen climate resilience in rural areas
- Promote sustainable livelihoods for rural communities

By integrating natural resource management with community participation, the programme ensures long-term sustainability and inclusive development.

Key Interventions under WDC-PMKSY : The programme adopts a multi-dimensional strategy involving scientific planning, ecological restoration, and community engagement. Major interventions include:

1. Soil and Moisture Conservation : Efforts are made to conserve soil and retain moisture through structures such as contour bunds and trenches. These measures reduce soil erosion and enhance water retention in agricultural lands.

2. Rainwater Harvesting and Groundwater Recharge : A wide range of water conservation structures are constructed, including:

- Check dams
- Percolation tanks
- Farm ponds
- Gabions

These structures not only store rainwater but also facilitate groundwater recharge, ensuring water availability during dry periods.

3. Ridge and Drainage Line Treatment : Scientific treatment of ridges and drainage lines helps in regulating water flow, preventing runoff, and improving soil stability. This contributes to better watershed management and reduced land degradation.

4. Agroforestry and Horticulture : Plantations under agroforestry and horticulture help prevent soil erosion, improve biodiversity, and provide additional income sources for farmers. These initiatives also contribute to climate mitigation.

5. Pasture Development and Livelihood Support : The programme includes development of pastures and support for asset-less households through livelihood activities. This ensures inclusive growth and strengthens the rural economy.

6. Springshed Development : Special focus is given to springshed development, particularly in hilly and Himalayan regions, to rejuvenate natural water sources and ensure sustainable water supply.

7. Community Participation and Awareness : Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) activities play a crucial role in mobilizing communities. Initiatives such as Watershed Yatra and Watershed Mahotsav promote awareness and encourage active participation of local communities in resource management.

Achievements under WDC-PMKSY 1.0 and 2.0 : The watershed development programme has achieved significant milestones across the country:

- 7,602 projects funded by the Government of India
- Coverage of approximately 348.83 lakh hectares of land

These large-scale interventions have contributed to restoring degraded landscapes and improving agricultural productivity.

Impact of WDC-PMKSY : The programme has demonstrated substantial positive impacts on both natural resources and rural livelihoods:

- Increase in groundwater table by up to 3 meters
- Expansion of cultivable area by up to 30%
- Rise in crop intensity by up to 18%
- Increase in milk production by up to 40%
- Growth in farmers' annual income by up to 70%

These outcomes highlight the effectiveness of watershed development as a tool for sustainable rural transformation.

Innovative Initiatives

Springs Rejuvenation : Under a pilot project, around 3,500 springs have been rejuvenated in hilly and Himalayan states, ensuring water security in vulnerable regions.

Watershed Yatra (2025) : A nationwide mass outreach campaign conducted from February to May 2025, the Watershed Yatra aimed to promote Jan Bhagidari (people's participation) in watershed development. It successfully raised awareness and encouraged community ownership of natural resources.

Conclusion : Watershed development has emerged as a powerful instrument for addressing some of India's most pressing challenges, including land degradation, water scarcity, and climate risks. Through the WDC-PMKSY 2.0 programme, the Government of India has demonstrated how integrated resource management, combined with community participation, can lead to sustainable and inclusive rural development.

As India continues to face environmental and agricultural challenges, strengthening watershed initiatives will be crucial for ensuring long-term ecological balance, water security, and improved livelihoods for millions of rural households.



Government of
Maharashtra

Strengthening Water Security in Maharashtra

Maharashtra faces recurring water scarcity due to irregular rainfall, increasing demand, and declining groundwater levels. Nearly 82 percent of the state is arid and about 52 percent drought-prone, making sustainable water management essential for agriculture and rural livelihoods. In response, the Government of Maharashtra and the Government of India have implemented several initiatives focused on conservation, groundwater recharge, and community participation. Key among these are the Jalyukt Shivar Abhiyan, the Atal Bhujal Yojana, and the Centre for Water Literacy at YASHADA.

Jalyukt Shivar Abhiyan: Transforming Drought-Prone Villages

The Jalyukt Shivar Abhiyan (JSA) was launched to address severe drought conditions and declining groundwater levels across the state. The first phase, implemented from 2015 to 2019, aimed to make 5,000 villages water-scarcity-free each year by strengthening watershed development and rainwater harvesting. The programme followed a convergence model that pooled resources from multiple schemes including MGNREGA, MLA and MP funds, district planning resources, CSR initiatives, and community participation.

Village-level planning was central to the initiative. Water budgeting and development plans were prepared with the participation of local communities and approved by the Gram Sabha. District Collectors coordinated the implementation across departments, ensuring efficient execution of water conservation works such as contour trenches, farm ponds, cement nala bunds, desilting of tanks, and restoration of traditional water bodies.

Outcomes of Jalyukt Shivar Abhiyan

The programme produced significant results. Over 20,500 villages became water-sufficient and more than 6.32 lakh water conservation works were completed. Water storage capacity increased substantially and groundwater levels improved by about 1.5 to 2 metres in many regions. Around 39 lakh hectares of farmland benefited from protective irrigation, helping farmers sustain crop production even during dry periods.



Large-scale desilting removed about 8.72 crore cubic metres of sediment from water bodies and more than 2,000 kilometres of rivers and streams were widened and deepened. Community participation also played a major role, with thousands of works implemented through local contributions.

Jalyukt Shivar Abhiyan 2.0

Building on the success of the first phase, Jalyukt Shivar Abhiyan 2.0 was launched in January 2023 to further strengthen watershed development and groundwater recharge. The programme targets 5,000 villages with water conservation interventions based on criteria such as drought vulnerability, absence of previous watershed programmes, and groundwater priority mapping.

As of February 2026, more than 5,800 villages have been selected and around 1.40 lakh works have been proposed with an estimated investment of over ₹4,000 crore. Nearly 78 percent of the works have already been completed, demonstrating the continued impact of the initiative.

Atal Bhujal Yojana: Community-Led Groundwater Management

The Atal Bhujal Yojana, launched by the Government of India in 2020, focuses on sustainable groundwater management through community participation. The programme is implemented in seven water-stressed states including Maharashtra and is jointly funded by the Government of India and the World Bank.

In Maharashtra, the scheme covers 1,442 villages across 73 watersheds in 13 districts with a total outlay of ₹965 crore. The Groundwater Surveys and Development Agency (GSDA) serves as the implementing agency. The programme promotes both demand-side measures such as water-efficient irrigation and supply-side interventions like groundwater recharge and watershed conservation.

A key feature of the programme is the preparation of village-level Water Security Plans through participatory processes and social audits. These plans encourage micro-irrigation, crop planning based on water availability, rainwater harvesting, and improved groundwater monitoring.

The programme has achieved notable results, including bringing more than 2.87 lakh hectares under micro-irrigation and training over five lakh villagers in sustainable water management practices.

Centre for Water Literacy, YASHADA

The Centre for Water Literacy at YASHADA, Pune plays an important role in promoting awareness and capacity building for water conservation across Maharashtra. The centre works to create a water-literate society through education, training, and community engagement.

A structured volunteer network has been created including Jalnayak, Jalyoddha, Jalpremi, Jaldoot, Jalsevak, and Jalkarmi cadres who act as water ambassadors at grassroots levels. These volunteers receive training on sustainable water management, water budgeting, aquifer and watershed concepts, irrigation practices, and water-related laws.

The centre also promotes school water literacy programmes and community awareness campaigns such as Jal Jagruti to encourage citizens to adopt responsible water practices.

Conclusion

Together, the Jalyukt Shivar Abhiyan, Atal Bhujal Yojana, and the Centre for Water Literacy represent a comprehensive approach to water management in Maharashtra. By combining infrastructure development, groundwater governance, community participation, and public awareness, these initiatives are helping build a more resilient and water-secure future for the state.



A Story of Transformation : Art of Living and the Journey of Natural Farming in India

More than forty-five years ago, Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar Ji founded The Art of Living with a simple yet powerful belief that true transformation happens when people are empowered to take charge of their own lives. What began as a movement for individual wellbeing gradually evolved into a global humanitarian effort, touching **over 500 million lives across 182 countries**.

In India, this vision found its deepest expression in rural landscapes where agriculture is not just a livelihood, but a way of life.

Over decades of grassroots work, Art of Living realized that farmers were caught in a cycle of rising input costs, chemical dependency, ecological degradation, and social distress. The solution could not be cosmetic. It had to be **holistic, sustainable, and farmer-led**.

This realization led to the birth of the **Sri Sri Institute of Agricultural Sciences and Technology Trust (SSIAST) in 2009** and an institution dedicated to promoting **chemical-free, natural farming systems** that protect the farmer, the consumer, and the environment alike.

Rather than imposing external models, SSIAST chose a different path. It worked with communities, respecting traditional wisdom, local ecology, and indigenous seed systems. Farmers were not treated as beneficiaries, but as **co-creators of change**.

Training became the foundation of this transformation.

Since 2009, **over 30 lakh farmers across 22 states** have been trained in Natural Farming practices. From small and marginal farmers to women cultivators and rural youth, capacity building was inclusive and deeply practical. **2,500 master trainers** emerged from within farming communities themselves.

What made this effort remarkable was not just scale, but adoption. **Ninety-five percent of trained farmers continued to practice Natural Farming**, restoring soil health, reducing input costs, and reclaiming dignity in farming. In some of India's most vulnerable regions, **1.15 lakh farmers in suicide-prone districts** were supported where farming once symbolized distress, it began to offer hope again.

Recognizing that agriculture must also create livelihoods beyond the farm, SSIAST trained **9,000 rural youth as farm managers**, extension workers, and agri-entrepreneurs. Post-harvest interventions and value addition, branding, and market linkages helped farmers move from subsistence to enterprise.

As the work deepened, governments and institutions took notice.

SSIAST became a trusted implementation partner for major national and state programs like **ZBNF in Andhra Pradesh, PKVY across multiple states, RKVY in Uttarakhand, PMKVY in Karnataka, and NAMAMI GANGE across the Ganga basin**. From the **Sundarbans mangrove restoration to agroforestry in drought-prone regions**, projects adapted to local ecological realities.

The Trust also played a crucial role in **river rejuvenation, watershed management, and tree plantation**, working alongside **MNREGA, state governments, and academic institutions like IIT Kanpur**.

Parallely, strong institutional partnerships were built with **NCOF, MANAGE, NIPHM, IIMR, NCUI, NCOL**, and others, creating a national ecosystem for Natural and Organic Farming. Indigenous seed conservation was strengthened by connecting seed keepers and farmer networks, ensuring that biodiversity remained in farmers' hands.

Over time, SSIAST's role evolved beyond implementation.

As an **advisor and knowledge partner to the Government of India**, the Trust contributed directly to shaping the country's Natural Farming framework. Its recommendations on organic standards were accepted by **NCONF**. Our team, represented Art of Living on national panels for drafting **Natural Farming manuals, standards, and policies** and also in shaping the recent OECD report, **"The Paris Agreement at Ten Years - Expert Views on Progress and Challenges for Climate Change mitigation"**.

The outcomes of this journey are visible across India's rural landscape and internationally.

Farmers once struggling have become **trainers and mentors**. Youth have found **gainful employment** in agriculture and certification systems. Women have emerged as leaders in farming collectives. Farmer groups have evolved into **regional certification councils**, managing Organic and Natural Farming certifications independently. Rural micro-enterprises have taken root, linking farms to markets with confidence.

What Art of Living and SSIAST have built is more than a program.

It is an **ecosystem** where policy meets practice, tradition meets science, and communities lead their own transformation. An ecosystem that proves agriculture can be ecologically regenerative, **economically viable, and socially empowering**.



IIT Roorkee: Enduring Leadership in Water Engineering, Treatment, and Sustainable Water Systems

IIT Roorkee holds a singular and historic position in the evolution of water engineering in India and Asia. Established in 1847 as the Thomason College of Civil Engineering, the Institute was founded to support the design, construction, and management of the Ganga Canal, one of the largest irrigation and water management projects of its time. This foundational role makes IIT Roorkee Asia's first civil engineering college, with water, canals, and river systems deeply embedded in its institutional DNA. Building upon this legacy, IIT Roorkee has evolved into a national and international centre of excellence in water science, engineering, and treatment, addressing challenges across the entire water value chain—from river basin management and hydraulic infrastructure to drinking water quality, wastewater treatment, reuse, and long-term sustainability.

A defining strength of IIT Roorkee lies in its pioneering and sustained contributions to Irrigation Water Management (IWM). Over decades, the Institute has played a critical role in advancing the planning, design, modernization, and performance assessment of large-scale canal irrigation systems across India. Faculty and researchers from IIT Roorkee have contributed extensively to improving irrigation efficiency, equitable water distribution, canal automation, conjunctive use of surface and groundwater, command area development, and participatory irrigation management. The Institute has also been at the forefront of research and advisory support for water-use efficiency, crop-water optimization, micro-irrigation integration, irrigation scheduling, and climate-resilient irrigation strategies, directly supporting

national priorities related to food security, drought mitigation, and sustainable agriculture. These efforts have informed irrigation policies, guidelines, and large irrigation modernization projects undertaken by central and state governments.

The Institute hosts four dedicated academic departments with strengths in water and hydro-related domains, namely Civil Engineering, Hydrology, Water Resources Development & Management (WRDM), and Hydro and Renewable Energy, providing expertise in hydraulics, river engineering, dams and canals, groundwater systems, hydropower, and integrated water resources planning. This is reinforced by a Centre of Excellence in Dam Safety, supporting national and state agencies in dam safety and climate-resilient rehabilitation, and by key interdisciplinary centres including DST-ICARS, the Disaster Mitigation & Management Centre, and the Centre for Sustainable Rural Development, which advance flood and drought resilience, climate adaptation, rural water supply and sanitation, and community-scale water solutions.

In the area of water treatment and quality, IIT Roorkee has made distinguished contributions through the development of advanced membrane technologies, electrocoagulation and electro-oxidation systems, novel adsorbents, smart water quality sensors, and decentralized purification units. These innovations target contaminants such as arsenic, fluoride, heavy metals, pesticides, nutrients, and emerging pollutants, and have resulted in significant patents, intellectual property, pilot-scale demonstrations, and technology transfers for real-world deployment.

Water research at IIT Roorkee extends well beyond traditional disciplinary boundaries, with multiple departments across engineering, sciences, materials, chemical processes, biosciences, management, and policy driving interdisciplinary innovation in wastewater reuse, resource recovery, circular economy approaches, climate-resilient infrastructure, and smart water systems. Collectively, these water- and climate-linked verticals have delivered over 400 consultancy projects, enabled nearly 200 institutional MoUs, generated more than 100 patents, and engaged close to 100 faculty members, underscoring IIT Roorkee's exceptional scale, translational impact, and sustained leadership in the water sector.

IIT Roorkee's sustained excellence in the water domain has been recognized through prestigious national awards for its contributions to water resources engineering, hydrology, water management, and treatment technologies. From its origins in the Ganga Canal to its present leadership in water treatment, dam safety, hydro-renewable energy, and disaster resilience, IIT Roorkee represents over 175 years of national service as a custodian of India's water heritage and a driving force for its sustainable water future.



Charting India's Water-Secure Future: A Legacy of Leadership and Action

ASSOCHAM: The Apex Voice of Indian Industry

Established in 1920, the **Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM)** stand as one of India's most influential industry bodies. Representing a powerful network of over **4,50,000** companies—including large corporations as well as small and medium enterprises (MSMEs)—ASSOCHAM has consistently played a pivotal role in shaping policies that strengthen India's economic landscape. Through its **70+ Sector Councils, State Councils, and specialized task forces**, ASSOCHAM focuses on key sectors and emerging growth segments of the economy. These platforms work closely with **Central and State Government** stakeholders, enabling meaningful dialogue and collaboration between policymakers and industry leaders.

The Chamber's primary objective is to **align the critical needs and interests of industry with the growth aspirations of the nation**. This is achieved through **evidence-based policy advocacy, strategic advisory practices, and collaborative initiatives** that help build a resilient and globally competitive Indian economy. ASSOCHAM's strength lies in its diverse and distinguished membership. Its eminent members come from **leading companies across India**, including major business houses, MSMEs, Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs), multinational corporations, banks, financial institutions, start-ups, professional firms, and women-led enterprises.

These accomplished leaders and experts contribute their **insights, experience, and best practices** to the Chamber's initiatives. Their engagement helps address industry challenges, foster innovation, and develop forward-looking strategies that support sustainable growth and economic transformation.

Guiding these efforts are ASSOCHAM's five transformative growth pillars:

Sustainability & Environment, Make in India, Ease of Doing Business, MSME Growth, Digital Economy.

Together, these pillars drive the Chamber's mission to support India's journey toward **sustainable development, industrial competitiveness, and long-term economic prosperity**.

ASSOCHAM National Council on Water

In an era defined by rapid urbanisation and climate volatility, the **ASSOCHAM National Council on Water** is dedicated to ensuring the availability of clean, safe, and sustainable water. The Council serves as a premier national platform for policy advocacy, technological innovation, and cross-sector collaboration, operating through a sophisticated **"4Ps" Strategic Approach**:

- **Policy:** Collaborating with regulators and policy makers to design water-positive frameworks.
- **Programme:** Executing technical collaborations and ground-level initiatives.
- **Public:** Cultivating community awareness to inspire a national mindset shift toward conservation.
- **Platform:** Uniting industry, academia, and civil society for cross-sectoral synergy.

Through specialized core groups focused on Advanced Urban Water Technologies and the Industrial Circular Economy, the Council ensures that modern solutions meet local challenges with surgical precision. The Council is guided by a distinguished group of visionary leaders and industry experts who bring deep experience and strategic insight to India's water sustainability agenda. The leadership includes **Mr. Mohd. Shaffi**, Chairman of the ASSOCHAM National Water Council and COO - Va Tech WABAG Limited (India Cluster); **Mr. Ajay Popat**, Senior Advisor at Ion Exchange (India) Ltd.; **Mr. Siddharth K. Desai**, Co-Chair of the ASSOCHAM National Council on Water and Joint Managing Director of Kishor Pumps Limited; and **Mr. Pratik Pota**, Managing Director & CEO of Eureka Forbes Ltd. Together with several other active council members, these leaders play a vital role in shaping strategic initiatives, fostering industry collaboration, and advancing sustainable water management

practices across the country. The **ASSOCHAM National Council on Water** offers a comprehensive range of **Technical & Advisory Services** aimed at helping organizations move beyond compliance and adopt sustainable, circular water management practices. These services provide industry stakeholders with the expertise and tools needed to address emerging water challenges while strengthening operational resilience.

The Council supports organizations through **Watershed and Resource Mapping, Hydrological Studies, and Climate Risk Assessments** to evaluate water availability, ecosystem dynamics, and environmental risks. It also provides advisory support in **Rainwater Harvesting, Water Source Remediation, and Operational Assessments** to improve water and wastewater management systems. For industries seeking to enhance their water stewardship, the Council offers **Water Audits, Technology Transfer, and Industry Compliance support**, along with the **BlueCo Rating**, a certification recognizing excellence in water efficiency and sustainability. In addition, ASSOCHAM promotes knowledge sharing through **Capacity Building initiatives and Skill Development programs**, helping organizations adopt best practices and contribute to a water-resilient future.

2025 Milestones: Celebrating Excellence and Innovation

The year 2025 marked a watershed moment for the Council, underscored by the prestigious **ASSOCHAM National Water Awards**. These awards celebrated the pioneers of Water Efficient Industries, Rainwater Harvesting, Innovative Water Technology, and Urban Water Management. By spotlighting excellence in Community CSR, the awards reinforced a collective industry commitment to sustainable growth that prioritizes both people and the planet. In a resounding validation for its efforts, **ASSOCHAM was honoured with the "Best Industry Organization" award under the Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari 1.0 Awards 2025**, by Hon'ble Minister of Jal Shakti, recognizing its unparalleled contribution to water conservation.

The India Water Leadership Conclave 2025

The 2025 Conclave served as a strategic catalyst, defining four critical pillars for the future of water:

- **Policy & Collaboration** : Building high-impact partnerships between government and industry.
- **Technology & Innovation** : Leveraging AI-enabled smart water solutions and SCADA monitoring to maximize efficiency.
- **Industrial Water Stewardship** : Moving beyond compliance toward **Zero Liquid Discharge (ZLD)**.
- **Community Engagement** : Empowering local communities and rural women as the primary custodians of water bodies.

A Landmark Commitment: The WUE Pledge

The defining legacy of the 2025 Conclave was the formal adoption of the Water Use Efficiency (WUE) Targets. Aligned with the National Water Mission, this pledge represents a paradigm shift from consumption to circularity.

The roadmap to 2030:

- **By 2027:** Mandatory completion of industrial water audits.
- **By 2030:** A target 50% reduction in the industrial water footprint.
- **By 2030:** Achieving a minimum of 30% reuse of treated wastewater.

ASSOCHAM continues to invite forward-thinking organizations to formalize their commitment via the **WUE Undertaking Form**, cementing their role in India's journey toward a water-resilient future. As India advances toward becoming a \$5 trillion economy, the sustainability of its water resources will remain central to long-term growth and societal well-being. Recognizing this imperative, ASSOCHAM remains committed to fostering a collaborative ecosystem where industry, government, academia, and communities work together to safeguard the nation's water security. As we move forward, ASSOCHAM calls upon industry leaders, policymakers, technology innovators, and civil society organizations to join this collective mission. Together, through **shared responsibility, strategic partnerships, and measurable action**, we can secure India's water future and ensure that water remains a driver of prosperity, resilience, and inclusive growth for generations to come.

For any clarifications or information, please contact the Water Team:

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R.K. Malhotra : A 97-Year-Old Engineer Who Helped Shape India's Water Infrastructure

At 97, R. K. Malhotra stands as a remarkable example of lifelong dedication to engineering and water resource management. Born on January 2, 1929, he graduated with honours in Civil Engineering in 1952 and in 1952 and joined Punjab Irrigation Department in December 1952 and on went to play a significant role in some of India's most iconic water infrastructure projects. **Early in his career, Malhotra was part of the team involved in building the historic Bhakra Dam, one of the largest and most important dams in the country.** He also worked on the Right Bank Power Plant and later contributed to the construction of Beas - Sutlej Link Project, a massive engineering effort designed to optimise water distribution across river basins.

Over the years, his technical expertise and leadership earned him several important roles. He served as General Manager on deputation to public sector undertakings of the Government of India and later became Chief Engineer at Bhakra of service in nation-projects, he retired from 31, 1987. Malhotra's received recognition practical solutions. Irrigation and Power times with the "Cash in 1978, 1982, 1984 he was also awarded Mohan Yadav Award contributions to the field Government of Punjab achievements with a



Even after retiring service, Malhotra's management continued. He joined the World Bank as an Irrigation Engineer. He served in that role until 1994 and then continued to work as a consultant until June 2023 – an extraordinary professional journey spanning more than seven decades. During his association with the World Bank, he worked on numerous development projects across India as well as international assignments in Sri Lanka and Afghanistan. His work focused on improving water conservation, strengthening irrigation infrastructure and supporting sustainable agriculture.

from government passion for water In January 1988, he

In Indian states such as Tamil Nadu, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka, he contributed to projects involving rehabilitation of water storage structures, soil conservation programmes, farm ponds for rainwater harvesting, groundwater recharge systems and erosion control works. He also reviewed designs for erosion control measures in a major project in Nigeria. Known for his innovative thinking, Malhotra introduced modern quality control management systems and technical solutions that were widely appreciated by both government authorities and the World Bank.

Today, at 97, R.K. Malhotra's life story reflects not only professional excellence but also a deep commitment to nation-building. From the majestic Bhakra Dam structure to the water and soil conservation projects in India & other developing countries, his contributions shall help in shaping the way water resources are constructed & managed".

Role and Significance of Water in Homoeopathy

An Essential Medium of Life, Healing, and Therapeutic Transformation

Water is the fundamental basis of life, indispensable to all living organisms. Constituting nearly 60–70% of the human body, it plays a vital role in maintaining cellular integrity, enabling biochemical reactions, and supporting overall physiological balance. Beyond its biological and ecological importance, water holds a unique and profound significance in medical systems, particularly in Homoeopathy. From a physiological perspective, water functions as the body's primary transport system, carrying nutrients, oxygen, hormones, and waste products. It regulates temperature, aids digestion and metabolism, and supports detoxification through renal processes. Additionally, it maintains homeostasis by balancing fluids, electrolytes, and pH levels, thereby ensuring proper circulation and organ function.



In Homoeopathy, water transcends its conventional role as a solvent and becomes a dynamic medium of healing. Central to homoeopathic philosophy is the concept of potentisation, wherein medicinal substances are serially diluted and succussed to enhance their therapeutic potential. Water serves as a crucial vehicle in this process, enabling the transmission and amplification of the medicine's dynamic energy, as described in classical homoeopathic principles. Water is also widely used as a medium for administering homoeopathic remedies. Dissolving medicines in water allows for precise dose adjustment, improved absorption, and gentler action—especially beneficial for sensitive individuals, children, and the elderly. This method supports the homoeopathic ideal of achieving a "gentle, rapid, and permanent cure."

Its importance is further emphasized in the use of LM (Q) potencies, where remedies are prepared and administered in aqueous solutions, with succussion before each dose. This ensures gradual stimulation of the vital force, minimizes aggravations, and allows greater control over treatment. In pharmaceutical preparation, water plays a key role in the extraction of medicinal properties during the preparation of mother tinctures, often in combination with alcohol. It facilitates the dissolution of plant constituents, forming the foundation for further potentisation. Beyond its practical applications, water also carries philosophical significance in Homoeopathy. It is viewed as a universal carrier of energy and life, aligning with the system's dynamic approach to disease and healing. Through water, the subtle medicinal influence interacts with the vital force, promoting harmony and restoration. In essence, water in Homoeopathy is far more than a passive medium—it is an active participant in the healing process. Its role in potentisation, administration, and therapeutic action underscores its indispensable place in this system of medicine. Water, therefore, is not merely a substance but the essence of life and healing. Its preservation, proper utilization, and understanding remain crucial for both human health and the sustainability of our planet.

By

Prof. Dr. A.K.Gupta, MD (Hom)

Sr. Homoeopathic Consultant, Gold Medalist

Secretary General - The Homoeopathic Medical Association of India (HMAI)

Founder Director - A.K.GsOVIHAMS (Om Vidya Institute of Homoeopathy & Allied Medical Sciences)

Father of Integration in Medicine and Healthcare

Recipient- Homeo Bhusan Award, Global Healthcare Excellence Award; Bharat Excellence

Award, International Dr.Hahnemann Award of Millennium, Dhanwantri Award, Meritorious

Award, Homoeopathic Gem Award, Lifetime Achievement Award, Appreciation Award , Dr

Mohinder Singh Award, Chikitsa Ratan Award, ET Healthcare Excellence Award, Father of

Integration in Medicine and Healthcare



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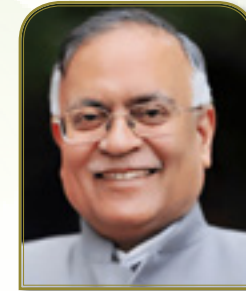
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Giriraj Goyal (MES)
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(Ministry of Jal Shakti)



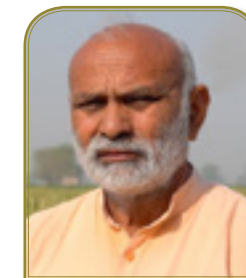
Umashankar Pandey
Padma Shree Awardee



Sethpal Singh
Padma Shree Awardee



Bharat Bhushan Tyagi
Padma Shree Awardee



Kamal Singh Chauhan
Padma Shree Awardee



Popatrao Pawar
Padma Shree Awardee



B. K. Yashwant Patil
Head-IT & Madhuban Radio Brahma
Kumaris, Mount Abu



Raman Kant
Chairman
Bhartiya Nadi Parishad



Ajay Sahay
Programme Officer, District
Bettah, Govt. of Bihar.





Ajay Prakash Rao Jadhav
Farmer

With a seed bank, demo plots, and value-added products empowered thousands toward self-reliance

The Farmer Who Built a Seed Revolution

Ajay Prakash Rao Jadeja is not just a successful farmer & he is a mentor, innovator, and institution builder. A master trainer in natural farming, he has transformed his farm into a vibrant learning centre where farmers, agriculture officials, scientists, and enthusiasts regularly gather to learn sustainable practices.

At the heart of his mission is seed sovereignty. Ajay has established a seed bank dedicated to preserving indigenous (Desi) seeds and conserving traditional crop diversity. Through systematic collection, preservation, and multiplication of native varieties, he empowers farmers to produce and protect their own Desi Bheej, reducing dependency on external inputs and commercial seed suppliers.

A Farm That Functions as a School

Ajay's farm operates as a model demonstration centre, showcasing practical, replicable natural farming techniques. Women farmers, especially those seeking to reduce cultivation costs, frequently visit his farm. Many are recommended by Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs), recognizing the impact and authenticity of his work.

Agriculture department officials, scientists, and farmers aspiring to establish seed banks of their own also visit his farm to understand his systems and methodologies.

Four Times the Yield

In Kheda district, Maharashtra, Ajay has set up a demo plot that stands as a testimony to the power of natural farming. According to his experience, his methods have delivered up to four times the yield compared to conventional farming practices.

A bumper maize harvest of 52 quintals drew the attention of both the Agriculture Ministry and Indian Council of Agricultural Research, who took note of his methodology and results.

From Farming to Value Creation

Under the guidance of SSIASST Trust, Ajay strengthened his knowledge not only in cultivation but also in branding and market linkage strategies.

Through Sri Sri Kisan Manch, he has streamlined market access for farmers. Instead of individual farmers struggling to sell their produce, Ajay consolidates harvests, coordinates with FPOs and buyers, and arranges farm-level pickup & ensuring fair returns and reduced logistical burdens.

His farmer group cultivates over 200 varieties of vegetables, fruits, and grains. Beyond production, he actively promotes value addition. Farmers are trained to process their produce into masalas, powders, and even innovative products such as banana-based chocolates and biscuits.

Empowering Thousands

Ajay Jadeja's impact extends across more than 12,000 farmers in and around his district. By combining seed preservation, natural farming, yield enhancement, value addition, and market integration, he has created a comprehensive ecosystem that empowers farmers to become self-reliant and profitable.

His farm is not merely a cultivation site & it is a movement toward sustainable agriculture, economic dignity, and community-led resilience.



जल योद्धा की पहल : छोटे प्रयास, बड़ा परिवर्तन



अनिल उडके
अध्यक्ष
आदर्श पर्यावरण समिति

जल महोत्सव से जुड़ा
सामुदायिक उत्सव

वर्ष 2009 से मैं अपने गांव में वर्षा जल संरक्षण के लिए निरंतर कार्य कर रहा हूँ। इस यात्रा की शुरुआत गांव के नाले में बोरी बंधान से हुई। मुझे आज भी याद है, जब गांव के 11 लोगों के साथ मिलकर पहला बोरी बंधान बनाया गया था। इस छोटे से प्रयास से लगभग 100 मीटर तक नदी का जलस्तर बढ़ गया, जिससे आसपास के 10 किसानों को सिंचाई का लाभ मिला। गर्मी के मौसम में भी वहां पानी बना रहा, जो पशु-पक्षियों के लिए भी उपयोगी सिद्ध हुआ।

इस कार्य को गांववासियों और पंचायत प्रतिनिधियों ने प्रत्यक्ष देखा। इसके बाद युवाओं के साथ श्रमदान के माध्यम से गांव के घरों में सोकपिट बनाए गए। सभी हैंडपंपों पर भी सोकपिट का निर्माण किया गया, जिससे पानी जमीन में जाने लगा और कीचड़ की समस्या समाप्त हुई। बाद में स्वच्छ भारत मिशन के अंतर्गत इन कच्चे ढांचों को पक्का किया गया तथा सभी सरकारी भवनों में वाटर हार्वैस्टिंग सिस्टम बनाए गए।

जहां पहले कच्चे बोरी बंधान बनाए जाते थे, वहां अब पंचायत द्वारा पक्के स्टॉप डैम और खेतों में चेक डैम बनाए गए हैं। इनसे वर्षा जल रुककर जमीन में समा रहा है और भूमिगत जलस्तर में निरंतर वृद्धि हो रही है। इसका प्रत्यक्ष परिणाम यह है कि 25 किसानों को लाभ मिल रहा है और लगभग 70-80 एकड़ भूमि में सिंचाई संभव हो पाई है। किसान अब तीसरी फसल के रूप में ग्रीष्मकालीन मूंग की बुवाई कर रहे हैं।

पहले गांव में जलस्तर 80-100 फीट नीचे था, जो अब 20-40 फीट पर आ गया है। सरकारी नल-जल योजना के तहत केवल 20 फीट में ही पानी उपलब्ध हो गया। गर्मी के दिनों में भी हैंडपंप बंद नहीं होते। पास के गांव खदारा, जो मात्र 3 किलोमीटर दूर है, वहां तीन स्थानों पर बोर खनन असफल रहा, जबकि हमारा गांव आज पानीदार गांव बन चुका है।

गांव की डूंगर देव पहाड़ी पर लगभग 1000 खतियां खोदी गईं, जिनमें श्रमदान के साथ पंचायत का सहयोग भी मिला। यह वर्षा जल को जमीन तक पहुंचाने का अत्यंत प्रभावी उपाय सिद्ध हुआ। हर वर्ष अक्टूबर-नवंबर में गांव में बोरी बंधान को "जल महोत्सव" के रूप में मनाया जाता है, जिसमें पूरा गांव सहभागी होता है।

बोरी बंधान गांववासियों की सहमति से ऐसे संकरे स्थलों पर किया जाता है, जहां कम बोरी में अधिक पानी रोका जा सके और अधिक किसानों को लाभ मिले। अब उन्हीं स्थानों पर पंचायत द्वारा पक्के स्टॉप डैम बनाए जा रहे हैं, जिनके गेट बंद करने से जलस्तर और बढ़ता है।

मेरा प्रयास रहता है कि क्षेत्र में कहीं भी बोरी बंधान या जल संरक्षण का कार्य हो, उसमें मैं सहभागी बनूँ। समय मिलने पर मैं स्कूलों, महिलाओं और युवाओं के बीच जाकर जल प्रबंधन पर संवाद करता हूँ। गांव की ढलान वाली भूमि पर पंचायत के सहयोग से बनाए गए एक चेक डैम का नामकरण गढ़ा मंडला की रानी दुर्गावती के नाम पर किया गया, जिनका जल प्रबंधन में ऐतिहासिक योगदान रहा है।

इन छोटे लेकिन कारगर प्रयासों का परिणाम यह हुआ कि गांव आत्मनिर्भर बना, किसान समृद्ध हुए और जल संरक्षण एक जन-आंदोलन का रूप ले सका।





Anirudha Jaykumar Todkar
Managing Director
MAPS Industries (I)
Pvt. Ltd.

A Landmark Water
Conservation Initiative by
MAPS Industries under Jal
Atmanirbhar Abhiyan

How Rooftop Rainwater Harvesting Made 131 Maharashtra Villages Tanker-Free

In a country where polluted rivers and shrinking reservoirs threaten water security, groundwater has become a lifeline for rural India. However, over-extraction has pushed aquifers to critical levels. Addressing this challenge head-on, MAPS Industries (I) Pvt. Ltd. has implemented one of the most ambitious rooftop rainwater harvesting initiatives in the country, bringing lasting relief to water-starved villages in Maharashtra.

Working in the drought-prone Marathwada region under the Jal Atmanirbhar Abhiyan, MAPS Industries has shown that rainwater harvesting delivers immediate and sustainable results. In 2021, the company, with ICICI Bank's support, introduced rooftop harvesting systems in four villages of Ambegaon Taluka&eliminating the need for tanker water entirely.

The success paved the way for a much larger intervention covering 131 villages across Beed and Dharashiv districts. Completed in just seven months, the project&led by Mr. Anirudha Todkar, Managing Director of MAPS Industries&covered 5,887 rooftops, including homes, schools, temples, and government buildings. By capturing rainwater from over 50 lakh square feet, the initiative now recharges approximately 30 crore litres of water annually into the groundwater table.

The impact on daily life has been transformative. By 2024, all participating villages became tanker water-free, benefitting nearly five lakh people. Women no longer walk long distances to fetch water, health and hygiene standards have improved, and school-going girls now attend classes without sanitation-related concerns. Rising groundwater levels are also improving soil moisture and agricultural resilience.

As climate change intensifies pressure on water resources, this large-scale rooftop rainwater harvesting project offers a replicable model for rural India. By combining technical expertise, community participation, and corporate support, MAPS Industries has demonstrated how sustainable solutions can deliver lasting social impact&one rooftop at a time.



बागपत जनपद में जल संरक्षण के प्रयास

उत्तर प्रदेश का बागपत जनपद, 1,32,100 हेक्टेयर के भौगोलिक क्षेत्रफल के साथ, राज्य का चौथा सबसे छोटा जिला है, किंतु राष्ट्रीय राजधानी क्षेत्र (एनसीआर) में स्थित होने के कारण इसका महत्व अत्यधिक है। जनपद की अर्थव्यवस्था मुख्य रूप से कृषि पर आधारित है, जहाँ लगभग 1,09,000 हेक्टेयर कृषि भूमि में से 80 प्रतिशत क्षेत्र में गन्ने की खेती होती है। इसके अतिरिक्त धान और गेहूँ जैसी जल-बहुल फसलें भी उगाई जाती हैं, जिससे भूजल संसाधनों पर भारी दबाव पड़ता है। इस चुनौती को देखते हुए बागपत जिला प्रशासन ने ग्रामीण, शहरी, कृषि एवं औद्योगिक क्षेत्रों में समन्वित जल संरक्षण रणनीति लागू की है।

“कैच द रेन” अभियान के अंतर्गत वर्षा जल संचयन और भूजल पुनर्भरण को प्राथमिकता दी गई है। जनपद के 110 राजकीय विद्यालयों, 181 आंगनवाड़ी केंद्रों तथा 33 अन्य शासकीय भवनों में वर्षा जल संचयन इकाइयाँ स्थापित की गई हैं। सभी 244 ग्राम पंचायतों में घरेलू जल को भूमि में वापस पहुँचाने हेतु 1,100 से अधिक सोक पिट्स का निर्माण किया गया है। इसके अतिरिक्त जल जीवन मिशन के अंतर्गत 181 भूजल पुनर्भरण इकाइयाँ अधिशेष जल को भूगर्भ में समाहित कर रही हैं।

पारंपरिक जलस्रोतों के पुनर्जीवन पर भी विशेष ध्यान दिया गया है। अमृत सरोवर योजना के अंतर्गत 122 तालाब, अटल भूजल योजना के अंतर्गत 55 तालाब तथा लघु सिंचाई विभाग द्वारा 42 तालाबों का जीर्णोद्धार किया गया है। इन तालाबों की गाद निकासी, गहराई बढ़ाने और मेड़ सुदृढीकरण से जल संग्रहण क्षमता और भूजल स्तर में उल्लेखनीय सुधार हुआ है।

जल संरक्षण के प्रयासों में जनसहभागिता को केंद्रीय स्थान दिया गया है। जनप्रतिनिधियों की सक्रिय भागीदारी के साथ स्वयं सहायता समूहों (SHG) की बैठकों में जल संरक्षण को नियमित एजेंडा बनाया गया है, जिससे 5,000 SHGs से जुड़ी लगभग 52,000 महिलाओं को जागरूक किया गया है। प्रत्येक ग्राम पंचायत में पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता समिति तथा नदी तटीय गाँवों में गंगा समितियाँ गठित की गई हैं, जो जलस्तर की निगरानी, कटाव रोकथाम और जनजागरूकता का कार्य कर रही हैं।

कृषि क्षेत्र में जल उपयोग दक्षता बढ़ाने हेतु 327 हेक्टेयर क्षेत्र को स्पिंकलर एवं ड्रिप सिंचाई प्रणाली से जोड़ा गया है तथा 300 हेक्टेयर भूमि पर मृदा संरक्षण कार्य किए गए हैं। किसानों को गन्ने की ट्रेंच विधि अपनाने के लिए प्रोत्साहित किया गया है, जिससे सिंचाई की आवश्यकता कम हुई और उत्पादन बढ़ा है। साथ ही फसल विविधीकरण के लिए 2,000 मिनी किट (मोटे अनाज, दलहन एवं तिलहन) वितरित किए गए हैं।

औद्योगिक क्षेत्र में प्रत्येक इकाई के लिए कम से कम 300 वर्ग मीटर क्षेत्र में जल संचयन एवं पुनर्भरण संरचना विकसित करना अनिवार्य किया गया है। शहरी क्षेत्रों में हिंडन नदी से जुड़े 23 गाँवों में नालों की सिल्ट सफाई कर पुनर्भरण क्षमता बढ़ाई गई है। कृष्णाई नदी के पुनर्जीवन हेतु चरणबद्ध कार्ययोजना लागू की जा रही है। वर्ष 2025-26 में 15 लाख पौधों का रोपण कर पर्यावरणीय संतुलन को सुदृढ किया गया है।

इन समेकित प्रयासों के परिणामस्वरूप वर्ष 2024 के प्री-मानसून में 19.93 मीटर से 2025 के पोस्ट-मानसून में 19.07 मीटर तक भूजल स्तर में 26 सेंटीमीटर का सुधार दर्ज किया गया है। जल उपलब्धता बढ़ने से कृषि उत्पादकता में वृद्धि, पलायन में कमी, महिलाओं का सशक्तिकरण तथा सामाजिक समरसता को बल मिला है। लगभग 13 लाख जनसंख्या को प्रत्यक्ष या अप्रत्यक्ष रूप से लाभ पहुँचा है। बागपत जनपद का यह मॉडल देश के अन्य जल-संकटग्रस्त जिलों के लिए अनुकरणीय एवं दोहराने योग्य उदाहरण प्रस्तुत करता है।



अस्मिता लाल (आईईएस)

जिलाधिकारी
जिला बागपत, उत्तर प्रदेश

सतत विकास और सामुदायिक सहभागिता से जल सुरक्षा का एक अनुकरणीय मॉडल



मध्यप्रदेश में जल संरक्षण की मिसाल : ग्राम भारती महिला मंडल के चार दशक



श्रीमती भारती अग्रवाल
संस्थापक
ग्राम भारती महिला मंडल

हैंडपंप प्लेटफॉर्म से रेन वाटर
हार्वेस्टिंग और 1,310 गाँवों में
जन-जागरूकता तक-ग्रामीण जल
स्रोतों के संरक्षण, पुनर्जीवन और
स्वच्छता में बहुआयामी पहलें

“ग्राम भारती महिला मंडल” पिछले चार दशकों से मध्यप्रदेश के ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में जल संरक्षण और स्वच्छता के क्षेत्र में सतत एवं प्रभावशाली कार्य कर रहा है। विभिन्न शासकीय विभागों के सहयोग से संस्था ने राज्य के अनेक जिलों में जल स्रोतों के संरक्षण, पुनर्जीवन और सतत उपयोग को सुनिश्चित करने हेतु बहुआयामी पहलें की हैं।

संस्था के कार्यों में हैंडपंपों के प्लेटफॉर्म एवं स्वच्छ कूप कपाटों का निर्माण, कुओं का जीर्णोद्धार व निर्माण, तालाबों का निर्माण एवं गहरीकरण, बोरी बंधान, शौचालय निर्माण, वाटर री-यूज सिस्टम की स्थापना, रेन वाटर हार्वेस्टिंग टैंकों का निर्माण तथा व्यापक जन-जागरूकता और प्रचार-प्रसार गतिविधियाँ शामिल हैं।

जल स्रोतों की सुरक्षा और पुनर्जीवन

यूनिसेफ, लोक स्वास्थ्य यांत्रिकी विभाग तथा जिला पंचायत के सहयोग से वर्ष 1999 से 2005 के दौरान बैतूल, छिंदवाड़ा, धार, खंडवा और गुना जिलों में तथा वर्ष 2006 से 2011 के बीच बैतूल, सीहोर और शिवपुरी जिलों में जल संरक्षण से जुड़े ठोस कार्य किए गए। इन प्रयासों का उद्देश्य जल को दूषित होने से बचाना और वर्षा जल का प्रभावी संचय सुनिश्चित करना रहा।

इस अवधि में संस्था द्वारा 200 हैंडपंप प्लेटफॉर्म और 50 स्वच्छ कूप कपाट निर्मित किए गए, जिससे जल स्रोतों के आसपास जमा पानी के कारण होने वाले प्रदूषण को रोका जा सका। ग्रामीणों की जल उपलब्धता सुनिश्चित करने के लिए 50 कुओं का जीर्णोद्धार व निर्माण तथा 35 तालाबों का निर्माण एवं गहरीकरण किया गया।

वर्षा जल संचय और स्वच्छता पर जोर

वर्षा उपरांत नदी-नालों के जल को संचित करने और पशुओं के लिए पेयजल उपलब्ध कराने हेतु 75 बोरी बंधान किए गए। वहीं सतही जल को दूषित होने से बचाने के लिए 50 शालेय शौचालयों और 25,000 घरेलू शौचालयों का निर्माण किया गया, जिससे स्वच्छता और स्वास्थ्य दोनों को बल मिला।

नवाचार: जल का पुनः उपयोग

संस्था ने जल के विवेकपूर्ण उपयोग को बढ़ावा देने के लिए 500 घरेलू तथा 25 आश्रम शाला वाटर री-यूज सिस्टम स्थापित किए। इन प्रणालियों के माध्यम से व्यर्थ जल का उपयोग बागवानी और किचन गार्डन के लिए किया गया, जिससे स्वच्छ जल की बचत सुनिश्चित हुई। इसके अतिरिक्त, 50 रेन वाटर हार्वेस्टिंग टैंक तथा 10 झूला/प्ले पंप स्थापित किए गए, जिनसे बिना बिजली के वर्षा जल को छत की टंकी तक पहुँचाया जा सकता है।

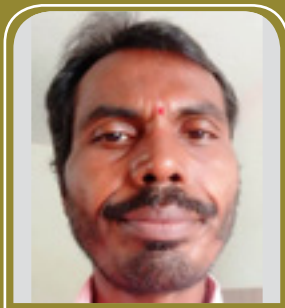
जन-जागरूकता और क्षमतावर्धन

वर्तमान में वर्ष 2021 से संस्था लोक स्वास्थ्य यांत्रिकी विभाग एवं जल निगम मर्यादित, भोपाल के सहयोग से मध्यप्रदेश के बैतूल, शिवपुरी, उज्जैन, खंडवा और खरगौन जिलों के 1,310 ग्रामों में प्रचार-प्रसार एवं क्षमतावर्धन गतिविधियाँ संचालित कर रही है।

ग्राम सभाएँ, जन सभाएँ, ग्रामीण सहभागिता मूल्यांकन, ग्राम कार्य योजना निर्माण, नुक्कड़ नाटक, प्रचार रथ, पोस्टर-पैम्फलेट वितरण, दीवार लेखन, एक्सपोजर विजिट, प्रशिक्षण एवं बैठकों के माध्यम से लगभग 2.5 लाख परिवारों को जल के सदुपयोग और संरक्षण के लिए प्रेरित किया जा रहा है।

चार दशकों से चला आ रहा यह समर्पित प्रयास ग्राम भारती महिला मंडल को ग्रामीण जल संरक्षण के क्षेत्र में एक सशक्त और विश्वसनीय संस्था के रूप में स्थापित करता है।





Boya Naidu
Tamilnadu

Blending traditional wisdom with modern training to build a resilient and self-reliant farming ecosystem.

Champion of Desi Seeds and Sustainable Agriculture: The Boya Naidu Story

Hailing from Anukonda village in Kurnool district, Boya Naidu has emerged as a dedicated farmer, trainer and grassroots project coordinator who has transformed natural farming practices in his region.

Trained in Natural Farming by SSIASST Trust in 2016 at Orvakal Mandal, Naidu quickly moved beyond being just a participant. At a time when many project villages did not even have access to desi cows & a key component in natural farming inputs & he took the initiative to source essential materials from nearby goshalas. He not only adopted the methods himself but also helped fellow farmers implement them successfully.

Recognising the need for accessible farm inputs, Naidu began preparing and supplying natural farming formulations to local farmers, functioning much like what is today known as a Block Resource Centre (BRC). To deepen his knowledge, he attended advanced trainings at the Art of Living International Center in Bengaluru on subjects such as Gopalan, agroforestry, nursery management, polyhouse cultivation, and preservation of indigenous seeds (Desi Beej Samrakshan).

In 2019, SSIASST Trust appointed him as Project Coordinator for the Zero Budget Natural Farming (ZBNF) initiative in Kurnool. He worked across 22 villages, empowering Self-Help Groups (SHGs) to prepare natural inputs, conserve native seeds, and establish rural micro-enterprises. Several women-led groups began producing and selling natural inputs and desi seeds, and even undertook village-level processing activities & creating new livelihood opportunities.

In 2020, just before the pandemic, Naidu showcased Natural Farming models at the National Conference on Natural Farming (NCONF) in Ghaziabad, strengthening visibility for grassroots innovations.

His efforts attracted not only small and marginal farmers but also large landholders with 25 acres and above. Under the Trust's guidance, farmers growing chillies under natural farming practices began exporting produce to the Netherlands & a milestone for the region.

Beyond farming, Naidu also introduced "Mandala Nutrition Gardens" in Anganwadis and Balwadis, ensuring that children receive fresh vegetables and greens as part of their mid-day meals.

Today, he supports nearly 2,300 farmers and works closely with four institutions. Continually travelling across villages in Kurnool, Boya Naidu remains a pillar of knowledge, mentorship and inspiration & proving how committed grassroots leadership can bring lasting agricultural transformation.



Reviving Rivers, Empowering Communities



Chandrasekaran Kuppan
Farmer-Vellore Tamil Nadu

Dr. Chandrasekaran Kuppan, an Art of Living teacher and Director of the Tamil Nadu River Rejuvenation Project (Naganadhi), has played a significant role in restoring rivers and mobilising rural communities for water conservation. Associated with Art of Living Foundation and its social initiative Vyakti Vikas Kendra India, his work has demonstrated how collective community action can successfully revive natural resources.

During 2011-2012, Dr. Kuppan served as Director of a Financial Inclusion Project, where he implemented a pilot initiative aimed at improving financial access for communities. Building upon his experience in community mobilisation, he launched the Naganadhi River Rejuvenation Project in 2013 and has since been leading the initiative. The Naganadhi River, which had remained dry for nearly a decade, has been successfully revived through sustained efforts over the years. Since 2019, the river has been flowing throughout the year as a perennial river, marking a major achievement in local water conservation.

A key feature of the project has been the active participation of rural women. Thousands of women from villages in the Kaniyambadi block of Vellore district contributed to the rejuvenation efforts through the government's rural employment programme, Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act. Their work focused on constructing groundwater recharge structures and strengthening local water management systems. The success of the Naganadhi River project inspired wider participation, with more than 44,000 rural women joining the initiative. Under Dr. Kuppan's guidance, around 45,000 women have been trained, leading to the construction of more than 7,000 recharge structures. The model developed for the Naganadhi rejuvenation has now extended to streams connected to 25 rivers across 15 districts of Tamil Nadu.

Apart from field work, Dr. Kuppan has actively conducted awareness programmes among young people to educate them about river rejuvenation and environmental sustainability. His environmental efforts also include planting approximately 2,50,000 palm seeds in Vellore district, which earned recognition as a world record. The impact of his work has received national attention. The Naganadhi rejuvenation initiative was appreciated three times by Narendra Modi in the radio programme Mann Ki Baat, including a special mention during its 100th episode. He was also invited by the Government of India to attend the 75th Republic Day of India in New Delhi.

Dr. Kuppan has been honoured by the district collectors of Vellore and Tirupathur for his contributions to water conservation. In recognition of the success of the Naganadhi rejuvenation project, around 1,500 women from Kaniyambadi block were invited to a special celebration and honoured with medals for their dedicated work. Through his leadership and commitment, Dr. Chandrasekaran Kuppan continues to expand the river rejuvenation model across Tamil Nadu, working towards restoring rivers and strengthening community participation in water conservation.



The Inspiring Work of Dr. Chandrasekaran Kuppan



Bayer Project Strengthens Water Security and Rural Livelihoods in Jharkhand

A community development initiative supported by Bayer has delivered significant gains in water conservation and rural livelihoods in Jharkhand, with all planned activities completed ahead of schedule.

Key infrastructure interventions included the renovation of 25 farm ponds and construction of 5 new ponds, along with the development of 10 hectares each of field bunds and trench-cum-bunds and 10 soak pits. These measures have improved water storage, soil moisture retention and farm productivity, benefiting around 5,930 people across local communities.

The project also prioritised capacity building. A total of 110 training sessions on water conservation, Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) and integrated farming systems were organised, reaching nearly 4,400 participants.

To diversify income sources, 100 households received duck-rearing kits and 50 households were provided fish fingerling packages, helping farmers generate additional livelihoods alongside agriculture.

Overall, the initiative has addressed key water and livelihood challenges through a combination of infrastructure development, farmer training and allied income support. The project's timely execution and strong alignment with local needs highlight its potential as a scalable model for community-driven water conservation and rural economic resilience.

Farm ponds, conservation works and farmer training benefit nearly 6,000 people



Jal Yoddhas of Amity : Guardians of Every Drop



Divya Bhatia
Principal
Amity International School, Saket



Ambreen Kauser
Teacher
Amity International School, Saket

Guardians of Every Drop : How Amity International School, Saket, Is Building a Culture of Water Conservation

Amity International School, Saket, has transformed its campus into a living laboratory of water conservation&where sustainability is not taught only in classrooms but practised every day. Through its Jal Yoddha (Water Warrior) initiative, the school has embedded respect for water into infrastructure, learning, and student behaviour.

Rainwater Harvesting: From Roof to Roots

The school operates two large rainwater harvesting structures at opposite ends of the campus, collecting runoff from a 1,419 sq m rooftop. Each structure&9 metres long and 3 metres deep&feeds underground tanks with a combined capacity of 70,000 litres.

Equipped with charcoal mesh filtration and certified by the Delhi Jal Board, the harvested water is reused across the campus for landscaping, the science park, herbal and kitchen gardens, the pigeon house, and the football field&closing the loop between rainfall and reuse.

Green Infrastructure & Biodiversity

Amity Saket's campus supports a rich green cover with 64 trees, 226 shrubs, 78 herbal plants, and nearly 1,000 potted plants. Beyond the campus, sustained plantation drives have added close to 2,000 saplings to the city's green cover, reinforcing the school's long-term commitment to urban ecology.

Water Efficiency in Daily Operations

Low-flow taps, aerators, and dual-flush systems reduce consumption, while water from air conditioners and coolers is repurposed for flushing, clay work, and paper recycling. Regular audits ensure leak-free pipelines and optimal usage, making conservation a daily discipline rather than a one-time project.

Student Engagement & Creative Advocacy

Water awareness comes alive through art, debate, and dialogue. Painting, poster, slogan, essay, and debate competitions&both in-house and inter-school&have engaged over 1,200 students, spreading messages such as "Jal Hi Jeevan" and "Save Our Rivers". These platforms empower students to become informed voices for sustainability.

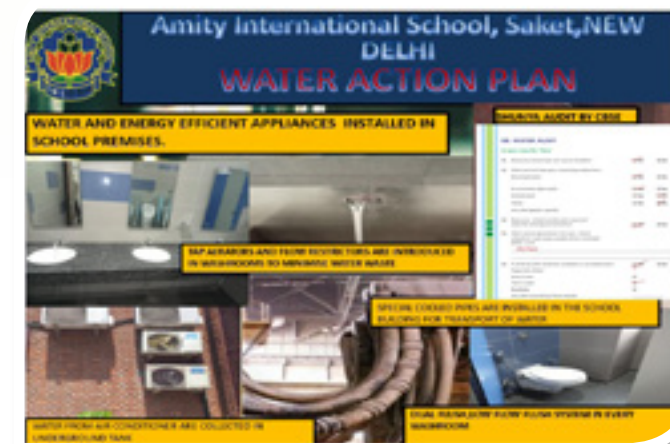
Innovation & Outreach

Under initiatives like VASUDHA and AQUANOVA, students have developed projects ranging from auto-watering indoor farms to models on sewage waste utilisation. Outreach programmes&including rallies, street plays,

workshops, water footprint audits, and awareness videos&extend conservation messages beyond the campus into the community.

The Jal Yoddha Ethos

At Amity International School, Saket, water conservation is a mindset. By integrating infrastructure, innovation, and inspiration, the school nurtures responsible citizens who understand that every drop matters&and that it truly takes a lot of blue to stay green.



Inspiring Young Minds to Lead the Water Movement



Narayan Vitthalrao Solanke
President
Universal Versatile Society



Dnyaneshwari Narayan Solanke
Project Manager

Empowering women,
mobilizing farmers,
and driving watershed
innovation&impacting
2,000+ direct and 10,000+
indirect beneficiaries
through sustainable water
management initiatives.

Leading the Water Revolution in Washim : From Village Tap Water to 40,000 Recharge Pits

Water scarcity has long been one of the most pressing challenges in Washim district, deeply affecting women, farmers, and agriculture-dependent communities. Erratic rainfall, declining groundwater levels, and inadequate water infrastructure placed immense physical and economic strain on families&particularly women, who often walked long distances to fetch water during peak summer months. Recognizing both the urgency of the crisis and the power of collective action, I committed myself to leading initiatives focused on improving water access, promoting sustainable resource management, and mobilizing communities to take ownership of their local water systems.

One of my earliest interventions was in Nagthana village, where women were forced to walk over a kilometer daily to collect drinking water. Understanding that sustainable solutions require community participation, I spearheaded the village's involvement in the Jal Mission project. I organized awareness meetings, mobilized women to contribute voluntary labor, and encouraged financial participation from villagers to instill a sense of ownership. Through coordinated efforts with local authorities and community members, we successfully established a reliable tap water supply system. This initiative significantly reduced the daily burden on women, improved household health and hygiene, and restored dignity and time for education and livelihood activities.

As CEO of the Universal Versatile Society, I expanded these efforts through the Integrated Watershed Management Project. Working in close coordination with the Washim district administration, I played a central role in planning, execution, monitoring, and community engagement. Under the "one recharge pit per acre" initiative, we collaborated with farmers, raised necessary resources, and ensured transparent implementation. As a result, 1,011 recharge pits were constructed, contributing to groundwater rejuvenation and improved soil moisture retention. Building on this success, our team mobilized large-scale participation to construct 40,000 recharge pits in just 40 days&an extraordinary collective achievement that was recognized in the World Book of Records, London. This milestone demonstrated how structured planning combined with community-driven action can deliver rapid and measurable environmental impact.

Beyond infrastructure, awareness and advocacy have been integral to my work. Through the Weekly World Climate Change News platform, I have consistently highlighted global and local water challenges, encouraging dialogue around conservation and climate resilience. I have also collaborated closely with my husband, the Founder and President of Universal Versatile Society, to implement watershed development, rainwater harvesting, and sustainable groundwater management programs at scale.

Together, we integrated technical planning, grassroots mobilization, and innovative approaches to address water challenges comprehensively.

Through these initiatives, over 2,000 individuals have directly benefited, with more than 10,000 people experiencing indirect impact through improved irrigation, enhanced water availability, and strengthened community systems. More importantly, these efforts have empowered communities&especially women and farmers&to become custodians of their natural resources. My journey in Washim reaffirms my belief that even in aspirational and water-stressed districts, sustainable change is possible when leadership, collaboration, and innovation come together with a shared vision for resilience and long-term water security.



Water Rejuvenation Works in Varanasi : A Step towards Sustainability



Himanshu Nagpal, IAS
Municipal Commissioner
Varanashi Municipal Corporation

Varanasi, a district in northern India, has been undertaking significant water rejuvenation works to conserve and manage its water resources effectively. The district's efforts to rejuvenate its water bodies, promote rainwater harvesting, and improve groundwater levels have been yielding positive results.

One of the major initiatives undertaken by the district is the rejuvenation of the Matuka and Nad rivers. The Matuka river, which is approximately 27 km long, and the Nad river, which is approximately 30 km long, have been restored through the removal of encroachment and the construction of check dams. The NREGA scheme has been utilized to implement these projects, which have benefited thousands of farmers in the region. Few months ago the river was almost extinct which is now river and flowing with water to its brim.

In addition to river rejuvenation, the city has also focused on rainwater harvesting. Over 8,050 recharge pits and 1,800 rainwater harvesting systems have been constructed to collect and conserve rainwater. The city has also saturated rainwater harvesting systems in all schools, ensuring that these institutions are equipped to harvest and conserve rainwater.

The construction of 403 Amrit Sarovars is another significant initiative undertaken by the city. A total of 403 Amrit Sarovars have been built to collect and conserve rainwater, which has helped to improve groundwater levels. Furthermore, over 700 ponds have been identified and reclaimed, providing additional water storage capacity.

The city has also made efforts to reuse unused and failed handpump bores for rainwater harvesting. A total of 1,043 such bores have been reused, which has helped to improve groundwater levels. The construction of pucca and kucha check dams on rivers and nallahs has also been a significant initiative, with over 412 check dams constructed.

The rejuvenation of wetlands is another area of focus for the city. Four major wetlands in Varanasi, namely Domaila, Kathiraon, Gajokhar, and Undi, have been revived, which has helped to maintain the ecological balance and support biodiversity.

The impact of these initiatives can be seen in the improvement of the water table in several development blocks. The Pindra block, which was previously categorized as critical, has emerged as semi-critical, indicating a significant improvement in groundwater levels.

The water rejuvenation works in Varanasi are a testament to the city's commitment to sustainability and water conservation. These initiatives

have not only improved groundwater levels but also helped to promote rainwater harvesting and conserve water resources. The city's efforts to rejuvenate its water bodies and promote sustainable water management practices serve as a model for other cities to follow.

The success of these initiatives can be attributed to the effective implementation of various schemes and programs, including the NREGA scheme. The involvement of local communities and stakeholders has also played a crucial role in the success of these initiatives. As Varanasi continues to work towards water conservation and sustainability, it is likely that the city will become a model for other cities in India and beyond.

Overall, the water rejuvenation works in Varanasi are a significant step towards ensuring a sustainable water future for the city. With continued efforts and commitment, Varanasi is likely to become a leader in water conservation and sustainability, providing a better quality of life for its citizens and supporting the health of its environment.

Social Impact of Matuka and Nad River Rejuvenation: Over 10,000 farmers got benefitted, Communicable diseases incident fell by a huge number in the over 60 Gram Panchayats around these villages. Water Table in 5 out of 8 blocks in the district improved and one block came out of Critical to Semi Critical Status. With 393 Amrit Sarovars built, it has provided a spot in the village for everyone to spend their quality time and do activities like Yoga, Chhath Pooja etc improving the community feeling. Over 7000 recharge pits constructed have helped reduced water logging and stagnation besides helping improve water recharge.



How River Restoration, Recharge Structures, and Community Participation Revived Groundwater and Benefited Over 10,000 Farmers



Lakshmi Madhuri Chatti



Dr. Aparna Bose

Every Drop Counts

Army Public School Mumbai : A Catalyst for Urban Water Conservation

Established in 1984 under the aegis of the Army Welfare Education Society, Army Public School Mumbai has consistently worked towards nurturing responsible citizens while promoting sustainable practices within its campus. Guided by the philosophy “Every Drop Counts – Save Water, Secure the Future,” the school has adopted a proactive approach to address the growing challenges of water scarcity in urban environments.

Recognizing that schools play a crucial role in shaping environmental awareness, APS Mumbai integrates water conservation into both its infrastructure and learning practices. Through innovative technologies, eco-friendly landscaping, traditional water conservation methods, and student-led initiatives, the school ensures that responsible water management becomes an integral part of campus life.

One of the notable student initiatives is the Flood Harvest Model, presented at the Central Board of Secondary Education Science Exhibition. The model demonstrates how excess rainwater during heavy rainfall can be captured and stored rather than being lost as runoff. This project reflects the school’s commitment to encouraging students to develop practical solutions for real-world environmental challenges.

The school also promotes water reuse and recycling through simple yet effective systems. Water discharged from air-conditioning units is collected and used for gardening, while wastewater from drinking water coolers and filtration units is diverted to flower beds and compost pits, ensuring optimal utilization of available resources.

APS Mumbai has further strengthened its sustainability efforts by installing rainwater harvesting systems and water inlet soak pits across the campus. These structures allow rainwater and surface runoff to seep into the ground through layers of sand, gravel, and stones, facilitating natural groundwater recharge while preventing waterlogging.

A remarkable green initiative is the development of a Miyawaki urban forest within the campus. By planting dense clusters of native species, the school has created a self-sustaining ecosystem that improves soil moisture retention, reduces runoff, enhances groundwater recharge, and supports biodiversity. Students actively participated in the plantation drive, gaining valuable hands-on experience in environmental stewardship.

Alongside modern techniques, the school also educates students about traditional Indian water conservation systems such as stepwells (baolis), johads, tanks, and kunds. These indigenous practices highlight the wisdom of ancient water management systems and inspire students to integrate traditional knowledge with modern sustainability practices.

Through regular water audits, Eco-Club activities, awareness campaigns, and innovative student projects such as sensor-based water level indicators, APS Mumbai continues to cultivate responsible water-use habits among students and staff.

Through these sustained efforts, Army Public School Mumbai has created a culture where water conservation is not merely a concept but a shared responsibility practiced every day. By empowering young minds to value every drop, the school is shaping environmentally conscious citizens committed to building a more sustainable future.



लेखन और फिल्म निर्माण के माध्यम से जल संरक्षण की जन-आंदोलनात्मक पहल



लोकेन्द्र सिंह राजपूत
सहायक प्राध्यापक
माखनलाल चतुर्वेदी नेशनल यूनिवर्सिटी
आफ जर्नलिज्म एंड कम्युनिकेशन

संचार की शक्ति से जल संरक्षण को जीवनशैली बनाने की पहल

जल जीवन का मूल आधार है, किंतु बदलती जीवनशैली, जलवायु परिवर्तन और जल संसाधनों के अंधाधुंध दोहन के कारण यह अमूल्य संपदा आज गंभीर संकट का सामना कर रही है। भारत जैसे विशाल और विविधतापूर्ण देश में जल संरक्षण केवल पर्यावरणीय विषय नहीं, बल्कि यह सामाजिक स्थिरता, खाद्य सुरक्षा, आर्थिक विकास और राष्ट्रीय हितों से गहराई से जुड़ा हुआ प्रश्न है। जल संरक्षण किसी एक संस्था या सरकार की जिम्मेदारी नहीं, बल्कि प्रत्येक नागरिक का नैतिक कर्तव्य है-और इसी सोच को समाज तक पहुँचाना मेरे प्रयासों का मूल उद्देश्य रहा है।

पत्रकारिता के क्षेत्र में सक्रिय रहते हुए मैंने लेखन, मीडिया और सोशल मीडिया को जल संरक्षण के प्रति जन-जागरूकता का प्रभावी माध्यम बनाया। मीडिया समाज का मानस गढ़ने की शक्ति रखता है। समाचार पत्रों, पत्रिकाओं और डिजिटल प्लेटफॉर्मों के माध्यम से लिखे गए लेखों ने जल संरक्षण को एक "अभियान" से आगे बढ़ाकर दैनिक जीवन की आदत बनाने पर जोर दिया। छोटे लेकिन व्यावहारिक उपाय-जैसे आवश्यकता अनुसार ही पानी परोसना, आरओ से निकलने वाले पानी का पुनः उपयोग, और बार-बार गिलास धोने से बचने के लिए व्यक्तिगत पानी की बोतल का प्रयोग-को अपनाने के लिए लोगों को प्रेरित किया गया। इन प्रयासों के परिणामस्वरूप अनेक परिवारों ने जल बचत को अपनी जीवनशैली का हिस्सा बनाया।

जल संरक्षण से जुड़े मीडिया सेमिनारों, संवादों और अभियानों में सहभागिता के माध्यम से नवीन प्रयोगों और सफल मॉडलों की जानकारी प्राप्त कर उसे समाज तक पहुँचाया गया। वर्ष 2017 में 'नमामि देवी नर्मदा : नर्मदा सेवा यात्रा' जैसे ऐतिहासिक अभियान के दौरान नर्मदा संरक्षण के महत्व को नई पीढ़ी से जोड़ने हेतु पत्रकारिता के विद्यार्थियों की सहभागिता सुनिश्चित की गई। इस विषय पर लेखन और सोशल मीडिया अभियानों ने जन-जागरूकता को व्यापक स्तर पर सशक्त किया।

लेखन के साथ-साथ डॉक्युमेंट्री और लघु फिल्म निर्माण जल संरक्षण का अत्यंत प्रभावशाली माध्यम सिद्ध हुआ। प्रधानमंत्री श्री नरेन्द्र मोदी द्वारा वर्षा जल संचयन के आह्वान के बाद विद्यार्थियों और सहकर्मियों को इस विषय पर फिल्म निर्माण के लिए प्रोत्साहित किया गया। इसी क्रम में मध्यप्रदेश के जनजाति बहुल ग्राम बाचा में जल संरक्षण और ग्राम विकास के सफल प्रयासों पर आधारित डॉक्युमेंट्री फिल्म 'बाचा : द राइजिंग विलेज' का निर्माण किया गया।

यह फिल्म सामाजिक कार्यकर्ता श्री मोहन नागर के नेतृत्व में किए गए सामूहिक प्रयासों को प्रस्तुत करती है, जहाँ बोरी बंधान, पहाड़ी क्षेत्रों में खंती निर्माण और वर्षा जल संचयन के माध्यम से एक सूखा-प्रभावित गांव को हरा-भरा और आत्मनिर्भर बनाया गया। यह डॉक्युमेंट्री एक व्यावहारिक ब्लूप्रिंट के रूप में सामने आई, जिसने यह सिद्ध किया कि सामूहिक सहभागिता और सही तकनीक से जल संकट का समाधान संभव है। फिल्म को अंतरराष्ट्रीय विज्ञान फिल्म महोत्सव में सराहना मिली तथा 2019 में राष्ट्रीय ग्रामीण एवं पंचायती राज संस्थान, ग्रामीण विकास मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार द्वारा आयोजित 4जी छंजपवदंस थपसउ थ्मेजपअंस वद लतंस कमअमसवचउमदज में द्वितीय पुरस्कार से सम्मानित किया गया।

इन सतत प्रयासों के माध्यम से न केवल जलस्रोत पुनर्जीवित हुए, बल्कि जल संरक्षण को लेकर समाज में चिंतन, व्यवहार और सहभागिता-तीनों स्तरों पर सकारात्मक परिवर्तन आया। लेखन और फिल्म निर्माण के जरिए यह संदेश निरंतर प्रवाहित किया गया कि जल संरक्षण छोटे-छोटे प्रयासों से शुरू होकर बड़े सामाजिक परिवर्तन का आधार बन सकता है



पानी की कमी से जल समृद्धि तक



महादेव गोमारे
किसान, लातूर, महाराष्ट्र

कैसे महादेव गोमारे ने लातूर में जनभागीदारी से शुरू किया जल संरक्षण आंदोलन

लातूर जिले के बाबलगांव गांव में एक किसान परिवार में जन्मे महादेव गोमारे का बचपन खेती और ग्रामीण जीवन के बीच बीता। परिवार की पुश्तैनी खेती के कारण उन्हें बचपन से ही खेती और प्रकृति से गहरा लगाव था। उन्होंने अपनी उच्च शिक्षा डॉ. बाबासाहेब आंबेडकर मराठवाड़ा विश्वविद्यालय, छत्रपति संभाजीनगर से एम.कॉम. में पूरी की। पढ़ाई के बाद उन्होंने अपने पेशे के साथ-साथ खेती को भी समान महत्व दिया।

खेती करते समय उन्होंने किसानों की कई समस्याओं को करीब से देखा, जिनमें सबसे गंभीर समस्या पानी की कमी थी। मराठवाड़ा क्षेत्र में बार-बार आने वाले सूखे और गिरते भूजल स्तर ने खेती को अस्थिर बना दिया था। इसी चुनौती का समाधान खोजने के लिए उन्होंने जल संरक्षण की दिशा में काम करने का संकल्प लिया।

साल 2013 में एक महत्वपूर्ण पहल हुई, जब आर्ट ऑफ लिविंग फाउंडेशन के बेंगलुरु स्थित आश्रम में तीन दिवसीय सरपंच परिषद आयोजित की गई। इस कार्यक्रम में मराठवाड़ा क्षेत्र के लगभग 2500 सरपंचों ने भाग लिया। चर्चा के दौरान यह स्पष्ट हुआ कि गांवों के सतत विकास के लिए सबसे जरूरी है खेती का संरक्षण और सही प्रबंधन।

परम पूज्य श्री श्री रवि शंकर के मार्गदर्शन और आशीर्वाद से लातूर की आर्ट ऑफ लिविंग टीम ने “जल जागृति अभियान” शुरू किया। इस अभियान के तहत शुरुआत में तीन गांवों को चुना गया, जिनकी भौगोलिक और सामाजिक परिस्थितियां अलग-अलग थीं। हर गांव में वहां की जरूरत के अनुसार काम किया गया। नदी का पुनर्जीवन किया गया, कहीं ओढ़ा-नाला को फिर से जीवित किया गया और कहीं गांव के तालाब को पुनर्जीवित किया गया।

इस पूरे प्रयास का मूल सिद्धांत था कि जब गांव के लोग स्वयं भागीदारी करते हैं, तो विकास के कार्य अधिक प्रभावी और टिकाऊ बनते हैं। इसी सोच के साथ एक साझेदारी मॉडल अपनाया गया, जिसमें 50 प्रतिशत योगदान गांव के लोगों का और 50 प्रतिशत सहयोग आर्ट ऑफ लिविंग के माध्यम से दिया गया।

काम शुरू करने से पहले लगभग दो महीनों तक गांवों में जागरूकता अभियान चलाया गया। किसानों, युवाओं और ग्रामीणों को जल संरक्षण के महत्व और इसके दीर्घकालिक लाभों के बारे में समझाया गया। इसके बाद मई महीने में कार्य शुरू हुआ और जल्द ही इसके सकारात्मक परिणाम सामने आने लगे।

इन प्रयासों की सफलता ने महाराष्ट्र में व्यापक जल संरक्षण अभियान को प्रेरणा दी, जिसे बाद में जलयुक्त शिवार अभियान के रूप में जाना गया। लातूर जिले में इस पहल के तहत लगभग डेढ़ करोड़ घन मीटर पानी का संचयन किया गया, जिससे हजारों एकड़ सूखी जमीन फिर से उपजाऊ बन सकी। करोड़ों लीटर पानी को जमीन में समाहित कर भूजल स्तर बढ़ाने की दिशा में भी महत्वपूर्ण काम हुआ। इस जनआंदोलन को राष्ट्रीय स्तर पर पहचान मिली और इसे राष्ट्रीय जल पुरस्कार से सम्मानित किया गया।

जल संरक्षण के साथ-साथ पर्यावरण संरक्षण को भी इस अभियान का हिस्सा बनाया गया। जिले में पाँच लाख से अधिक पेड़ लगाए गए और उनकी देखभाल की गई। किसानों को तीन लाख से अधिक बागवानी पौधे उपलब्ध कराकर एग्रो-फॉरेस्ट्री का एक नया मॉडल विकसित किया गया, जिससे कई किसान प्रति एकड़ दो से चार लाख रुपये तक की आय प्राप्त कर रहे हैं।

इसके अलावा किसानों को प्राकृतिक खेती की निःशुल्क प्रशिक्षण भी दी गई। आज राज्य में 30,000 से अधिक किसान इस पहल से लाभान्वित होकर टिकाऊ और पर्यावरण अनुकूल खेती की ओर बढ़ रहे हैं।

महादेव गोमारे की यह यात्रा दर्शाती है कि यदि समाज, किसान और संस्थाएं मिलकर काम करें, तो जल संकट जैसी बड़ी समस्या का समाधान भी संभव है। उनका प्रयास आज एक प्रेरणादायक जनआंदोलन बन चुका है, जो गांवों में पानी, समृद्धि और उम्मीद की नई धारा बहा रहा है।



Bhada Nala Before



Bhada Nala After Work



Bhada Nala today : Results in first Rainfall





Mosa Paramanandamu
Working General Secretary
Sri Tirumala Nagar RWA

A Community-Led Model of
Urban Water Resilience in
Visakhapatnam

Sri Tirumala Nagar Rainwater Harvesting Initiative

Sri Tirumala Nagar (TN) is a residential colony spread over 30 acres in the northern part of Gajuwaka Mandal, Visakhapatnam district, Andhra Pradesh. Home to around 950 families (4,000–4,500 residents), the colony comprises a mix of independent houses and apartment complexes, reflecting a diverse, cosmopolitan urban community.

Need for the Initiative

By 2018, rapid urbanisation, increased water consumption, and declining rainfall had caused a sharp fall in groundwater levels in Sri Tirumala Nagar. Borewells required drilling beyond 150–200 feet, and residents became heavily dependent on water tankers supplied by the Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation (GVMC). Even with overhead tanks, water supply remained inadequate. Recognising the seriousness of the crisis, the Sri Tirumala Nagar Resident Welfare Association (TN RWA), with guidance from GVMC and the Andhra Pradesh Federation of Resident Welfare Associations (APFERWAS), initiated a large-scale Rainwater Harvesting (RWH) programme to restore groundwater and ensure long-term water security.

Implementation and Innovation

In 2018, TN RWA implemented an extensive rainwater harvesting project, constructing 175 rain-harvest pits across parks, roads, and residential areas. These structures were strategically designed to capture rooftop runoff and surface stormwater, enabling efficient groundwater recharge. Additionally, residents installed 109 rooftop rainwater harvesting systems, with new systems added annually in newly constructed buildings. Surface runoff was channelled through 74 guided trench-based harvesting structures along roads and parks.

Through these combined efforts, the colony conserves approximately 46.97 lakh litres of water annually.

Impact and Social Benefits

The results have been transformative. Groundwater levels have risen dramatically, with water now available at 50–60 feet, eliminating dependence on tanker water. Nearly 950 families benefit directly from reliable water access, reduced household expenses, and improved quality of life. The initiative has also resulted in significant cost savings for GVMC by reducing tanker operations.

Beyond water security, the project triggered widespread social and behavioural change. Women and senior citizens are relieved from water-related stress, while children and youth actively participate in conservation drives. The colony has planted 3,400 trees, promoted cloth bags, household composting, and waste segregation, improving the local microclimate and environmental health.

Awareness, Recognition, and Replication

Between 2018 and 2024, TN RWA conducted 47 awareness programmes on water conservation, recycling, and sustainability, including school workshops, colony meetings, and outreach in neighbouring localities. Awareness was amplified through YouTube videos, pamphlets, and audio messages.

The initiative has earned widespread recognition, including the National Water Hero Award (2020–21), the 5th National Water Award (3rd Prize, 2024), multiple Swachh Colony awards, and recognition as a Model Colony by institutions such as NIUA, TERI, and GVMC at the 11th National RWA Conference (Hyderabad, 2024). The model has been documented under the V-PULL Urban Living Lab for future climate-resilient urban planning.

Conclusion

From a water-stressed colony in 2018 to a self-sufficient, eco-conscious community by 2024, Sri Tirumala Nagar RWA demonstrates the power of community-led action supported by local governance. Its success offers a replicable blueprint for urban water resilience, inspiring neighbouring colonies and cities across India to adopt sustainable water management practices.





नबीन सेनापथी
ओडिशा

2022 के चक्रवात में सुरक्षित रही फसल, प्राकृतिक खेती मॉडल से गांव को मिला नया आत्मविश्वास

प्राकृतिक खेती से चक्रवात पर जीत : नबीन सेनापति बने ओडिशा के किसानों के लिए प्रेरणा

Nabin Senapati, ओडिशा के Sambalpur district के बामरा तहसील के लारियापल्ली गांव के एक प्रगतिशील किसान, आज प्राकृतिक खेती के सफल मॉडल के रूप में उभरे हैं।

उन्होंने वर्ष 2020 में PKVY (Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana) से जुड़कर रसायन-मुक्त प्राकृतिक खेती को अपनाया।

चक्रवात 2022 में बची फसल

साल 2022 में आए भीषण चक्रवात के दौरान छोटे किसानों को भारी नुकसान हुआ। लेकिन नबीन सेनापति और उनके गांव के कुछ किसानों की फसल लगभग सुरक्षित रही।

कारण था-प्राकृतिक खेती की पद्धति।

इससे मिट्टी का स्वास्थ्य बेहतर हुआ, मिट्टी की छिद्रता (soil porosity) बढ़ी और पानी का रिसाव (percolation) तेज हुआ। कुछ ही घंटों में खेतों का पानी निकल गया और फसल सामान्य स्थिति में लौट आई।

मेहनत का मिला सम्मान

निरंतर प्रयास और समर्पण से उन्हें बेहतर उत्पादन मिला। उनके कार्य को राज्य कृषि विभाग ने मान्यता दी और सम्मानित किया।

उन्होंने विभिन्न कृषि मेले, उत्सव और प्रदर्शनियों में भाग लेकर अपने अनुभव साझा किए।

पेड़ के नीचे से शुरू हुई ऑर्गेनिक दुकान

शुरुआत में उन्होंने एक पेड़ के नीचे छोटी-सी ऑर्गेनिक दुकान लगाई। धीरे-धीरे वे अन्य किसानों के लिए रोल मॉडल बन गए।

किसान उनसे सलाह लेने लगे। उन्होंने अपने खेत को ही प्रशिक्षण केंद्र बना दिया और प्राकृतिक खेती की तकनीकें सिखाना शुरू किया।

योजना खत्म, लेकिन मिशन जारी

योजना की अवधि तीन वर्ष की थी, लेकिन नबीन सेनापति का मिशन आज भी जारी है।

उनके प्रयासों से लारियापल्ली गांव के किसान अनियमित मौसम और प्राकृतिक आपदाओं का बेहतर सामना कर पा रहे हैं।



The People's Water Warrior



Nagaraj Gangolli
Bengaluru, Karnataka

Nagaraj Gangolli, a senior teacher with the Art of Living Foundation, is a pioneering force in India's water conservation movement. His work seamlessly integrates technical expertise with grassroots participation, creating scalable and sustainable solutions to address water scarcity.

A defining achievement of his journey is the revival of the Vedavathi River basin, once plagued by declining groundwater and drought-like conditions. Through large-scale watershed interventions—such as check dams, recharge pits, contour trenches, and percolation ponds—he has helped restore ecological balance, enhance groundwater recharge, and improve soil moisture across vast regions. What sets Gangolli apart is his community-centric approach. By mobilizing farmers, youth, volunteers, and institutions, he has transformed water conservation into a people's movement. His training programs equip rural communities with practical knowledge to build, manage, and sustain water structures independently.

One of his most impactful contributions is the "Barefoot Technician" model, where local youth are trained in basic engineering, surveying, and watershed implementation. This innovation bridges the gap between planning and execution, ensuring quality and accountability in rural projects. Its success led to adoption under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, strengthening grassroots capacity while generating employment.

Gangolli's work spans multiple river systems, including the Kumudavathi, Palar, Arkavathi basin (Kaveri tributaries), and parts of the Malaprabha and Tungabhadra basins. His interventions have contributed to improved groundwater levels, increased agricultural productivity, reduced rural distress, and enhanced water security for cities like Bengaluru. By combining traditional wisdom, modern science, and community ownership, Nagaraj Gangolli has created a replicable model of river rejuvenation. His efforts continue to inspire a nationwide shift toward sustainable, people-led water management.

Driving River Rejuvenation
through Community,
Innovation, and Sustainable
Water Management





Nilesh Sheshrao Mankar
Deputy Engineer (Mechanical)

Restoring Water, Reviving Hope

In many rural and tribal regions, water scarcity is not merely a seasonal challenge it is a recurring crisis. Every summer, falling groundwater levels, rising temperatures, and non-functional borewells leave villages struggling for safe drinking water. Yet, in many cases, the issue was not the absence of water sources, but neglected and choked infrastructure.

This understanding led to the implementation of an Integrated Borewell Restoration and Climate-Responsive Water Management Model & built on restoration, recharge, and community ownership.

More than 2,700 non-functional borewells were cleaned and revived instead of drilling new ones. Each borewell now supports 20–30 households, collectively benefiting nearly 3 to 4 lakh people across villages and tribal hamlets. The initiative reduced tanker dependency, saved public funds, and prevented unnecessary groundwater over-extraction.

To ensure long-term sustainability, 150 groundwater recharge shafts were constructed to capture rainwater and replenish aquifers. Instead of merely extracting water, communities began restoring it. Water tables stabilized, and resilience during peak summer improved significantly.

Public buildings schools, Anganwadis, and health centers were strengthened with improved rooftop rainwater harvesting systems, transforming rainfall into a valuable community resource. Alongside this, cool roof technology reduced indoor temperatures by 3–5°C, creating comfortable classrooms and safer healthcare spaces while lowering energy consumption.

The impact has been far-reaching. Students now learn in better environments, patients receive care in cooler facilities, and communities have developed a stronger sense of ownership through Gram Sabha engagement and youth participation in maintenance efforts.

Serving approximately 1.25 lakh households, this integrated model demonstrates that sustainable water security can be achieved through scientific planning, infrastructure restoration, and collective responsibility.

In water-stressed rural and tribal landscapes, the initiative has done more than restore borewells & it has restored dignity, resilience, and hope for a sustainable future.



A Climate-Responsive
Model for Rural and Tribal
Communities

A Model of Institutional Water Self-Reliance



Prof. NVM Rao
Dean Administration



Prof. Srinivas Rallapalli

Spread across 328 acres in semi-arid Rajasthan, Birla Institute of Technology and Science, Pilani (BITS Pilani) has developed a comprehensive and near self-sufficient water management system serving over 8,000 residents across 214 residential and 21 institutional buildings. By integrating infrastructure, technology, and community participation, the campus has significantly reduced freshwater dependence while strengthening groundwater security.

At the core of its strategy are two Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs) with a combined capacity of 2.5 MLD. On average, 1.8–2.4 MLD of wastewater is treated daily, with nearly 1.5 MLD reused for flushing, gardening, irrigation, and industrial processes. This initiative alone has reduced freshwater demand by about 60% and enabled zero liquid discharge. Treated sludge is composted and reused in landscaping, completing a circular wastewater loop.

Rainwater harvesting and groundwater recharge form the second pillar of the model. Eight rooftop harvesting systems with a storage capacity of 8.68 lakh liters capture monsoon rainfall. Additionally, 32 recharge wells, 52 soak pits, and multiple large recharge structures replenish aquifers to depths of 150 feet. With rainfall of 50 mm, these systems collectively recharge millions of liters, ensuring groundwater balance despite limited precipitation. Over 80% of campus roads are built with porous bricks, allowing stormwater to percolate naturally.

Efficiency and monitoring are equally prioritized. More than 50 water meters track real-time consumption, while separate pipelines for potable and recycled water prevent misuse. Smart pumping systems, low-flow fixtures, and predictive demand analytics have led to a 15% reduction in overall water consumption, even as campus population increased. In the past year alone, conservation and recycling efforts saved approximately 5 million liters of water, excluding rooftop harvesting gains.

Sustainability efforts extend to ecological restoration. The campus sustains over 13,000 trees across 90 species, all irrigated using treated wastewater. This enhances biodiversity, improves air quality, moderates microclimate conditions, and eliminates the need for freshwater in landscaping.

The impact extends beyond campus boundaries. Continuous recharge through deep wells and soak pits has improved groundwater availability in nearby villages such as Pilani town, Chandrawati, and Ragarwas. Through awareness drives, faculty development programs, and community outreach, more than 15,000 people have benefited directly or indirectly from these initiatives.

By saving and recharging over one crore liters of water annually, reusing 1.5 MLD daily, and achieving zero liquid discharge, BITS Pilani has emerged as a replicable and scalable model for water security in semi-arid regions. Its approach demonstrates how data-driven planning, technological innovation, and community responsibility can transform an educational campus into a living laboratory of sustainable water management.



Integrating Recycling,
Recharge and Smart
Monitoring to Build a Water-
Secure Campus



Olivannan Nagarajan
Farmer

How one educated youth rebuilt his village economy through sustainable agriculture and collective strength.

From Family Duty to Farmer Leader

Educated with a Bachelor of Engineering degree, Olivannan's life took a decisive turn when he had to shoulder the responsibility of his family and village after his father. Instead of pursuing a conventional career path, he chose to take up his family's farming legacy—a decision that would eventually spark a quiet agricultural transformation.

In 2018, Olivannan received training in natural farming at the Bengaluru ashram of SSIASST Trust. Inspired by the principles and practical techniques he learned, he began with a one-acre experimental plot. The results were encouraging. Crops such as paddy, sugarcane, groundnuts, and medicinal herbs responded positively to natural farming methods, showing improved yields and significantly reduced input costs.

Encouraged by consistent success year after year, Olivannan gradually converted his entire landholding to natural farming. What began as a personal experiment soon evolved into a community movement. Seeing the economic and ecological benefits, fellow farmers from his village began adopting the same practices. Over time, farmers from neighbouring villages also joined the initiative.

Today, around 120 farmers have formed a collective group under his guidance, working together to reduce costs, improve soil health, and increase incomes. The collective approach has strengthened bargaining power and created a supportive learning ecosystem among farmers.

Beyond cultivation, Olivannan has focused on value addition, particularly in medicinal herbs. By drying, powdering, branding, and marketing these products, he has demonstrated how farmers can move beyond raw produce sales and capture greater value from their harvests.

From a one-acre trial to a thriving farmer network, Olivannan's journey stands as an example of how education, responsibility, and sustainable practices can transform not just a farm, but an entire rural community.





Padmakar Bhide
Industrialist



Giri Sakrani
Rotarian

Community Action and
Institutional Support
Powering Lasting Change

From Drought to Dignity: Reviving Satara Through Community-Led Water Conservation

The three talukas of Khatav, Maan and Koregaon in Satara district in Maharashtra represent some of the harshest drought-prone geographies in the state. Year after year, the southwest monsoon bypasses this region, leaving it dry and vulnerable. The northeast monsoon, arriving late in October and November, occasionally brings a few heavy showers, but these are too meagre and irregular to sustain agriculture or drinking water needs through the year. For decades, this persistent scarcity has forced waves of migration to the cities of Mumbai and Pune. It is from these very talukas that the renowned dabbawalas of Mumbai trace their roots. It is a reminder of how scarcity at home has pushed generations to seek livelihood in distant cities.

To tackle the lack of water, the Government of Maharashtra attempted an intervention in the 1950s and 60s by constructing nearly 200 percolation dams across these talukas. The objective was simple yet powerful: trap the rainwater, however little, and store it for the community's use. Unfortunately, due to inherent design flaws, these earthen dams failed to serve their purpose. Over time, every single structure developed leaks, and instead of offering hope, the dams turned into symbols of lost opportunity. By November or December each year, water scarcity grips the region, forcing the plying of water tankers. Each villager receives a paltry 10 litres of drinking water per week.

It was against this backdrop that Mr. Padmakar Bhide emerged as a beacon of change. Driven by determination and compassion for the suffering villages, he took it upon himself to find practical, sustainable solutions that were tailored to the specific ecological challenges of the talukas. Without waiting for government intervention, he and his team pioneered a series of community-led water conservation measures. These included designing modular interlocking structures to bund streams and trap rainwater, repairing damaged percolation dams to eliminate leakage, de-silting catchment areas to increase water-holding capacity, and digging continuous contour trenches to trap runoff and recharge groundwater.

The results were transformative. Wells within a five-kilometre radius of the repaired dams now hold water throughout the year. Farmers who once grew only one uncertain crop now grow three assured crops annually. Household incomes have increased dramatically, health parameters have improved as waterborne diseases have vanished, women have been freed from the daily drudgery of fetching water, and school enrolments have risen. Most importantly, migration to cities has reduced, and communities are thriving again. This pioneering work of Mr. Bhide has created a replicable model for drought mitigation that combines technical ingenuity with community participation.



In recent years, Rotary Club of Pune Central, inspired by Mr. Bhide's vision, has stepped forward to join this movement for water security. Through the leadership of our member Rotarian Giri Sakhrani, the Club initiated the Rajapur Dam Repair Project, adopting the same principles that have guided Bhide's work. The Rajapur dam, like many others, had been rendered ineffective due to leakage. By repairing it using proven methods, de-silting the catchment, and strengthening water conservation structures, the project has restored its original purpose of holding water year-round.

This collaboration marks a significant milestone. It demonstrates how Rotary, with its ethos of "Service Above Self," can complement and strengthen community-driven initiatives. The Rajapur Dam project has already begun showing results: water availability

has increased, agriculture is more secure, and villagers are experiencing improved quality of life. The restored water body is even witnessing the arrival of migratory birds, a testimony to the revival of biodiversity. For Rotary Club of Pune Central, this is not just a project, but a commitment to scaling up a model that has already proven successful in multiple villages under Mr. Bhide's stewardship.

The synergy between individual leadership and institutional support is what makes this effort truly noteworthy. Mr. Padmakar Bhide's decades of tireless dedication laid the foundation, and Rotary's involvement has amplified its reach and impact. By lending organizational strength, technical support, and resources, Rotary has ensured that this work not only continues but expands to new geographies.

The larger impact of these combined efforts goes far beyond water availability. It is about demonstrating that communities can solve their most pressing challenges when visionaries like Mr. Bhide and Rotarian Sakhrani inspire, and organizations like Rotary lend support. It underlines the fact that lasting development does not always require massive government schemes but can be driven by passionate individuals, empowered communities, and committed partners.

In recognition of this pioneering initiative, which has changed the face of drought-prone villages in Satara and is now being strengthened through Rotary Club of Pune Central's Dam repair projects, it is only fitting that this collaborative effort be honoured.

Social Impact of Work and how many people got benefitted

10000 Plus people by the Rajapur Dam project. Overall projects over the years in lakhs. The larger social impact of these combined efforts goes far beyond water availability. It is about dignity, health, education, women's empowerment, and sustainable livelihoods. It is about restoring confidence in rural life and preventing forced migration to overcrowded cities. This work stands as a shining example of how grassroots innovation, when nurtured and scaled, can bring about transformational change. It underlines the fact that lasting development does not always require massive government schemes but can be driven by passionate individuals, empowered communities, and committed partners.



पटेल नटवरभाई गोबरभाई : प्राकृतिक खेती से मूल्य संवर्धन की नई मिसाल



पटेल नटवरभाई गोबरभाई
गुजरात

पटेल नटवरभाई गोबरभाई, Kathwada Village (तालोद तहसील, Sabarkantha district) के एक प्रगतिशील किसान और प्राकृतिक खेती के मास्टर ट्रेनर हैं। उन्होंने अपने खेत पर ही मूल्य संवर्धन (Value Addition) की आधुनिक सुविधा स्थापित कर आसपास के किसानों के लिए एक मजबूत सहारा तैयार किया है।

उन्होंने देखा कि कई किसानों के पास रासायन-मुक्त उपज के प्रसंस्करण की सुविधा नहीं है। इस समस्या का समाधान करते हुए उन्होंने ऐसा केंद्र बनाया जहाँ मूंगफली और मोटे अनाज (मिलेट्स) की सफाई, डिहस्किंग (छिलका हटाना), डेस्टोनिंग (कंकड़ अलग करना), मूंगफली से तेल निकालना और पैकेजिंग की सुविधा उपलब्ध है।

हर दिन लगभग 250 से 300 किसान इस केंद्र से लाभ उठा रहे हैं। इससे उनकी लागत कम हुई है, बाहरी मिलों पर निर्भरता घटी है और उनकी प्राकृतिक उपज की शुद्धता व बाजार मूल्य बना हुआ है।

प्राकृतिक खेती को प्रसंस्करण और पैकेजिंग से जोड़कर पटेल नटवरभाई ने किसानों की आय बढ़ाने का एक टिकाऊ मॉडल प्रस्तुत किया है। उनका कार्य क्षेत्र के सैकड़ों किसानों के लिए प्रेरणा का स्रोत बन चुका है।

300 किसानों को रोज मिल रहा प्रसंस्करण और शुद्ध उत्पादन का सहारा





Poonam Singh
Executive Director
Karunalya Social Welfare
Foundation

From tankas to naadis :
Restoring heritage water
wisdom for a sustainable
future

Reviving traditional water systems to secure livelihoods across Rajasthan's Thar Desert

The Karunalya Social Welfare Foundation (KSWF) spearheaded a silent revolution in water conservation and turned hopelessness into resilience through the Jal Aadhar Project, which focused on rainwater harvesting and community empowerment in Rajasthan's drought-prone Thar Desert, where water scarcity defines daily life.

It restored historic systems, such as tankas (underground water tanks) and naadis (community ponds), under the direction of the Foundation, combining them with contemporary enhancements. 40 naadis were restored, bringing the total storage capacity back to around 400 million liters, and more than 26 tankas were constructed, each holding 20,000 to 25,000 liters of potable water for homes. In the districts of Jodhpur and Churu, these actions currently benefit around 70,000 people and 105,000 animals.

Our work stands out because it is human-centered. Tankas were built in the names of Women and elderly relatives were directly given ownership and dignity. Women who used to have to walk miles to gather water now save hours every day, enabling women to work productively and enabling girls to go back to school. The health of cattle, nutrition, and hygiene have all significantly improved, and households also save thousands of rupees a year.

The foundation main approach is community involvement. To ensure ownership and sustainability, villagers provided labor, financial support, and supervision through Village Development Committees (VDCs). Silt catchers, diversion bunds, and better catchments are examples of innovations that increased water quality and capacity while generating jobs in the area.

Our foundation's Jal Aadhar Project has provided dependable access to clean drinking water for over 70,500 individuals in over 13,000 households in the districts of Jodhpur and Churu. A vital source of income for desert populations, the project also helped some 105,000 animals. Now, families save time, money, and health thanks to the construction of 26 tankas (each holding 20,000–25,000 liters) and the renovation of 40 naadis (which have a combined capacity of 400 million liters). Girls and women who had to trek two to three hours every day to get water may now go to school, take care of their families, and work for pay. Water security is not the only outcome; dignity, decreased migration, better health, and rekindled hope in the desert are other benefits.



एक पशु चिकित्सक से जलयोद्धा तक की असाधारण यात्रा



डॉ. प्रदीप भीमराव पोळ

युवाचार्य - आर्ट ऑफ लिविंग
एक्स तालुका कॉर्डिनेटर - पानी फाऊंडेशन

अकालग्रस्त क्षेत्र में
सामूहिक प्रयास से
स्थायी परिवर्तन

श्री प्रदीप भीमराव पोळ एक समर्पित सामाजिक कार्यकर्ता एवं निजी पशु चिकित्सक हैं, जिन्होंने अपने अकालग्रस्त क्षेत्र में जलसंरक्षण के माध्यम से व्यापक सामाजिक और आर्थिक परिवर्तन की मिसाल प्रस्तुत की है। उन्होंने समस्या को केवल देखा नहीं, बल्कि उसका स्थायी समाधान खड़ा करने का साहसिक कदम उठाया।

समस्या की पहचान

अपने व्यावसायिक कार्य के दौरान श्री पोळ ने देखा कि पशुओं में बढ़ती बीमारियां, दूध उत्पादन में गिरावट तथा मादा पशुओं में प्रजनन संबंधी समस्याओं का मुख्य कारण पानी और हरे चारे की कमी है। उन्होंने समझा कि जल संकट केवल पर्यावरणीय समस्या नहीं, बल्कि ग्रामीण अर्थव्यवस्था की जड़ को प्रभावित करने वाली चुनौती है। इसी समझ ने उन्हें जलसंरक्षण के क्षेत्र में सक्रिय भूमिका निभाने के लिए प्रेरित किया।

प्रेरणा एवं सामाजिक जुड़ाव

श्री पोळ ने Art of Living के नेतृत्व प्रशिक्षण कार्यक्रम में सहभाग लिया, जिससे उनमें सामुदायिक नेतृत्व और सेवा भावना का विकास हुआ। Sri Sri Ravi Shankar के मार्गदर्शन में चल रहे Sri Sri JalJagruiti Abhiyan से जुड़कर उन्होंने अपने ही गांव से जलक्रांति की शुरुआत की।

प्रमुख उपलब्धियां

1. सीमेंट बंधारा निर्माण

- ▶ ग्रामवासियों की सहभागिता से 3 मीटर ऊंचा एवं 26 मीटर लंबा सीमेंट बंधारा निर्मित।
- ▶ जनसहयोग, स्थानीय बैंक एवं सामाजिक संस्थाओं के माध्यम से संसाधन एकत्रित।
- ▶ प्रथम वर्षा के पश्चात भूजल स्तर में उल्लेखनीय वृद्धि।
- ▶ 100 से अधिक किसानों की लगभग 200 एकड़ भूमि को सीधा लाभ।
- ▶ सिंचाई सुविधा में सुधार एवं कृषि उत्पादन में वृद्धि।

निर्माण कार्य के दौरान चोरी, राजनीतिक हस्तक्षेप, आर्थिक बाधाएं तथा मौसम संबंधी चुनौतियों का सामना करते हुए भी कार्य सफलतापूर्वक पूर्ण किया गया।

2. तहसील स्तर पर व्यापक प्रभाव

प्रारंभिक सफलता के बाद श्री पोळ ने अपने प्रयासों का विस्तार किया। वे महाराष्ट्र शासन के Jalyukt Shivar Abhiyan में सक्रिय रूप से जुड़े तथा Paani Foundation की वॉटर कप पहल में तालुका समन्वयक के रूप में कार्य किया। तहसील के 106 गांवों में से लगभग 70 गांवों में जल एवं मिट्टी संरक्षण के माध्यम से सकारात्मक परिवर्तन लाने में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाई। इस कार्य में प्रशासन, ग्रामवासियों, विभिन्न स्वयंसेवी संस्थाओं तथा Bharatiya Jain Sanghatan जैसी संस्थाओं का सहयोग प्राप्त हुआ।

सामाजिक एवं आर्थिक प्रभाव

श्री पोळ के प्रयासों से निम्नलिखित परिणाम प्राप्त हुए :

- ▶ भूजल स्तर में स्थायी सुधार
- ▶ पशुपालन एवं दुग्ध उत्पादन में वृद्धि
- ▶ कृषि क्षेत्र में विस्तार एवं उत्पादकता वृद्धि
- ▶ ग्रामीण पलायन में कमी

- ▶ डेयरी, पोल्ट्री एवं अन्य ग्रामीण व्यवसायों का विकास
- ▶ प्राकृतिक एवं रसायनमुक्त खेती को प्रोत्साहन
- ▶ सामुदायिक सौहार्द एवं सामाजिक एकता में वृद्धि

विशेषता

श्री प्रदीप भीमराव पोळ की विशिष्टता यह है कि वे किसी शासकीय पद पर न होते हुए भी जनसहभागिता आधारित विकास मॉडल के माध्यम से स्थायी जलसंरक्षण आंदोलन खड़ा करने में सफल रहे। उनका कार्य केवल संरचनात्मक निर्माण तक सीमित नहीं, बल्कि सामाजिक जागरूकता, पर्यावरण संरक्षण और आत्मनिर्भर ग्राम निर्माण की दिशा में समर्पित है।

निष्कर्ष

श्री प्रदीप भीमराव पोळ का योगदान जलसंरक्षण एवं ग्राम विकास के क्षेत्र में प्रेरणादायी एवं अनुकरणीय है। उन्होंने यह सिद्ध किया है कि दृढ़ संकल्प, सामुदायिक सहयोग और सकारात्मक नेतृत्व के माध्यम से अकालग्रस्त क्षेत्र को भी समृद्ध एवं आत्मनिर्भर बनाया जा सकता है।

अतः वे जल एवं ग्रामीण विकास के क्षेत्र में उत्कृष्ट योगदान हेतु सम्मान के पूर्णतः पात्र हैं।



हरित चेतना के प्रहरी : प्रशान्त सिन्हा की जल एवं पर्यावरण संरक्षण यात्रा



श्री प्रशान्त सिन्हा
लेखक

जनभागीदारी, जल साक्षरता और सतत जीवनशैली के माध्यम से आत्मनिर्भर समाज की ओर एक प्रेरक पहल

पृथ्वी के बढ़ते तापमान, घटते भूजल स्तर और अनियंत्रित संसाधन उपभोग के इस दौर में जहाँ पर्यावरण संरक्षण केवल चर्चा का विषय बनकर रह जाता है, वहीं श्री प्रशान्त सिन्हा ने इसे अपने जीवन का उद्देश्य बना लिया। बिना किसी संस्था, अनुदान या संगठनात्मक सहयोग के उन्होंने व्यक्तिगत स्तर पर जल संरक्षण, जलवायु परिवर्तन के प्रति जागरूकता और सामुदायिक सहभागिता का एक सशक्त मॉडल प्रस्तुत किया है।

उनका मूल सिद्धांत है—“हर व्यक्ति एक संस्था।” इसी विचार को आधार बनाकर उन्होंने अपने जीवन में बिजली, पानी और सार्वजनिक संसाधनों के सीमित एवं जिम्मेदार उपयोग को अपनाया और समाज को भी प्रेरित किया। लेखन, ब्लॉग, समाचार पत्रों और डिजिटल माध्यमों के जरिए उन्होंने वर्षा जल संचयन, भूजल पुनर्भरण, अपशिष्ट जल पुनः उपयोग, वृक्षारोपण और जलवायु परिवर्तन जैसे विषयों पर व्यापक जनजागरूकता फैलाई। उनके लेखों ने अनेक युवाओं, महिलाओं और विद्यार्थियों को जल संरक्षण की दिशा में सक्रिय किया।

उनके प्रयासों से वैशाली और गाजियाबाद की कई आवासीय सोसाइटियों में रेन वाटर हार्वेस्टिंग सिस्टम स्थापित किए गए। इन प्रणालियों के माध्यम से छतों का वर्षाजल पाइपलाइन द्वारा भूजल स्तर में पुनर्भरित किया जाता है। परिणामस्वरूप प्रतिवर्ष लगभग 50 लाख लीटर से अधिक जल संरक्षण संभव हुआ है और 500 से अधिक परिवारों को प्रत्यक्ष लाभ मिला है। कई क्षेत्रों में भूजल स्तर में औसतन 1.5 से 2 मीटर तक सुधार दर्ज किया गया है।

श्री सिन्हा ने आर.ओ. मशीन से निकलने वाले वेस्ट वाटर के पुनः उपयोग की व्यवस्था को भी लोकप्रिय बनाया। उनके मार्गदर्शन में अनेक सोसाइटियों में इस जल का उपयोग पौधों की सिंचाई, फर्श सफाई और शौचालय फ्लशिंग में किया जा रहा है। इससे प्रत्येक सोसाइटी में प्रतिमाह लगभग 50,000 से 60,000 लीटर जल बचाया जा रहा है, जो वर्षभर में लगभग 6ख7 लाख लीटर जल संरक्षण के बराबर है।

उन्होंने केवल जागरूकता तक अपने प्रयास सीमित नहीं रखे, बल्कि श्रमदान के माध्यम से भी उदाहरण प्रस्तुत किया। यमुना घाट, मकनपुर तालाब और घोंची तालाब में सफाई, जलकुंभी हटाने और पुनरुद्धार कार्यों में सक्रिय भागीदारी करते हुए उन्होंने स्थानीय युवाओं, स्वयंसेवकों और समितियों को जोड़ा। 300 से अधिक लोगों की सहभागिता से जलधारण क्षमता में लगभग 20% वृद्धि दर्ज की गई, जिससे आसपास के सैकड़ों परिवारों को सिंचाई और जल उपलब्धता में लाभ मिला।

विद्यालयों में जाकर उन्होंने बच्चों को सरल प्रयोगों के माध्यम से वर्षा जल संचयन और पुनर्भरण की प्रक्रिया समझाई तथा “हर बालक बने जल प्रहरी” का संदेश दिया। इससे नई पीढ़ी में जल साक्षरता और पर्यावरणीय जिम्मेदारी की भावना विकसित हुई।

श्री प्रशान्त सिन्हा का कार्य इस तथ्य का जीवंत उदाहरण है कि परिवर्तन किसी बड़ी संस्था से नहीं, बल्कि एक जागरूक व्यक्ति से भी प्रारंभ हो सकता है। उनकी पहल ने सिद्ध किया है कि प्रेरणा, जनभागीदारी और स्थानीय क्रियान्वयन के माध्यम से जल आत्मनिर्भरता और पर्यावरण संरक्षण को व्यवहारिक रूप दिया जा सकता है। यह केवल एक व्यक्ति की कहानी नहीं, बल्कि उस विचारधारा की मिसाल है जो समाज को सतत विकास की दिशा में आगे बढ़ाती है



जल-संरक्षण की पत्रकारिता : नागपुर में कुओं के पुनर्जीवन की यात्रा



श्री प्रवीण नीलकंठराव डब्ली
वरिष्ठ पत्रकार / पर्यावरण संरक्षक

शहर की जल विरासत को बचाने की सामूहिक पहल

नागपुर में पानी की कमी, बढ़ता प्रदूषण और पीएनजी जैसी विभीषिकाओं की आहट ने शहर को हमेशा असहज किया है। पत्रकारिता करते हुए यह चिंता और भी तीव्रता से महसूस होती थी। ऐसे में पानी के लिए कुछ करने का मन बार-बार अपनी ओर खींचता रहा। इसी बेचौनी ने जल-संरक्षण की दिशा में सक्रिय कदम उठाने की प्रेरणा दी और यही से एक महत्वपूर्ण यात्रा की शुरुआत हुई-एक ऐसी यात्रा जिसने न सिर्फ शहर के भूले-बिसरे कुओं को नई पहचान दिलाई, बल्कि स्थानीय प्रशासन को भी ठोस कदम उठाने के लिए बाध्य किया।

वाटर हार्वेस्टिंग से शुरू हुआ बदलाव

शुरुआत इस विचार से हुई कि यदि वर्षाजल को सहेजने की व्यवस्था व्यापक स्तर पर हो जाए, तो शहर के भूजल स्तर में सुधार लाया जा सकता है। इसी विश्वास के साथ वाटर हार्वेस्टिंग पर आधारित खबरें लगातार प्रकाशित की गईं। इन रिपोर्टों का असर यह हुआ कि स्थानीय प्रशासन ने वर्षाजल संरक्षण पर ठोस पहल शुरू की। समाज के कई हिस्सों में इस दिशा में सकारात्मक गतिविधियाँ दिखने लगीं और इस सफलता ने आगे बढ़ने का हौसला दिया।

शहर के ऐतिहासिक कुओं का सफर

अगला कदम था-नागपुर के ऐतिहासिक एवं पारंपरिक कुओं की स्थिति को समझना। पत्रकारिता की शक्ति का उपयोग करते हुए स्थानीय प्रशासन से इन कुओं की सूची, इतिहास और तकनीकी जानकारी जुटाई गई। इसके बाद इन कुओं का व्यक्तिगत निरीक्षण किया गया। निरीक्षण के दौरान सामने आया कि शहर के अधिकांश कुओं का पानी पीने योग्य नहीं रह गया है। कई कुएँ गंदगी, कचरे और लंबे समय से उपेक्षा के कारण लगभग अनुपयोगी हो चुके थे।

लेकिन इतिहास यही बताता है कि पानी की वास्तविक परंपरा इन प्राचीन संरचनाओं के इर्द-गिर्द ही बसती थी। ऐसे में यह आवश्यक था कि इन कुओं को पुनर्जीवित किया जाए ताकि शहर के जल-संकट के बीच इनमें फिर से जीवन का संचार हो सके।

जिम्मेदारी निभाते हुए प्रशासन पर दबाव

अखबारों में लगातार कुओं की वास्तविक स्थिति प्रकाशित की गई-कहाँ गाद भरी है, कहाँ दीवारें टूट रही हैं, कहाँ रासायनिक प्रदूषण का असर है, और कहाँ तकनीकी मरम्मत की जरूरत है। इन खबरों ने जनमत भी तैयार किया और प्रशासन पर दबाव भी बढ़ाया। इसका परिणाम यह हुआ कि शहर के तत्कालीन महापौर ने संज्ञान लेकर सभी प्रमुख ऐतिहासिक कुओं की सफाई का आदेश जारी किया। न केवल सफाई बल्कि कुओं के पानी को शुद्ध और सुरक्षित बनाने के लिए उनमें आरओ प्लांट लगाने की प्रक्रिया भी शुरू की गई।

इसी क्रम में सामान्य सार्वजनिक कुओं की सफाई तथा पुनर्निर्धारण के निर्देश भी जारी हुए। वर्षों से उपेक्षित कई कुएँ अचानक प्रशासनिक एजेंडों में शामिल हो गए और लोग भी अपने पुराने जलस्रोतों के प्रति जागरूक होने लगे।

200 वर्ष पुराने विशालकाय कुएँ का संघर्ष

मोतीबाग क्षेत्र का 200 वर्ष पुराना विशालकाय कुआँ इस अभियान का सबसे अहम हिस्सा था। करीब 72 फीट चौड़ा और लगभग 80 फीट गहरा यह कुआँ नागपुर की जल-परंपरा का जीवंत साक्षी था। लेकिन उपेक्षा, कचरे और लापरवाही से यह लगभग मृतप्राय हो चुका था।

कुएँ की सफाई के लिए वर्षों तक संघर्ष करना पड़ा। मंत्रालय स्तर तक कई बार जाना पड़ा, फाइलें चलीं, प्रस्ताव तैयार हुए, रिपोर्ट छपीं और जनदबाव बढ़ता गया। अंततः दक्षिण पूर्व मध्य रेलवे नागपुर मंडल के संवेदनशील मंडल रेल प्रबंधक ने इस मांग की गंभीरता को समझा और इसकी सफाई के लिए विशेष अभियान चलाने का निर्णय लिया।

लगातार अथक प्रयासों, प्रशासनिक समन्वय और तकनीकी हस्तक्षेप के साथ इस विशालकाय कुएँ की सफाई पूरी की गई। कुआँ पुनर्जीवित हुआ-जलस्तर बढ़ा, गंदगी निकाली गई और इसका ऐतिहासिक स्वरूप भी सुरक्षित हुआ। इस उपलब्धि ने नगर में यह विश्वास और मजबूत किया कि परंपरागत जलस्रोत आज भी समाधान बन सकते हैं, यदि इच्छाशक्ति और जागरूकता हो।

तालाबों के संरक्षण की ओर कदम

कुओं के पुनर्जीवन के कार्य के साथ ही शहर के तालाबों की चिंता भी उठाई गई। कई तालाब अतिक्रमण, कचरे और जलप्रदूषण की वजह से अपनी मूल पहचान खो चुके थे। इन्हें बचाने और संरक्षित करने के लिए जागरूकता, रिपोर्टिंग और प्रशासनिक संवाद का क्रम अब भी जारी है। यह प्रयास शहर की जल-संपदा को भविष्य के लिए सुरक्षित रखने की दिशा में महत्वपूर्ण है।

स्थानीय जनप्रतिनिधियों की भूमिका

नागपुर के ऐतिहासिक क्षेत्रों में आज भी भूजल का स्तर अपेक्षाकृत अधिक पाया जाता है। इसका कारण यहीं के पुराने जल ढांचे-कुएँ, बावड़ियाँ, तालाब-रहे हैं। लेकिन इनका संरक्षण तभी संभव है जब स्थानीय नगरसेवक, पार्षद और जनप्रतिनिधि इसे अपनी जिम्मेदारी समझकर आगे आएँ। ऐसे कुओं की नियमित सफाई, सुरक्षा, जल-परिक्षण और उपयोगिता का निर्धारण आवश्यक है।

यह पूरी यात्रा बताती है कि पत्रकारिता केवल सूचना देने का माध्यम ही नहीं बल्कि समाज परिवर्तन का प्रभावी उपकरण भी है। पानी जैसे संवेदनशील विषय पर जब पत्रकारिता जनहित में उठकर खड़ी होती है, तो प्रशासन भी जागता है, नीतियाँ बदलती हैं और शहर की जल-संरचना को नया जीवन मिलता है।

नागपुर के कुओं का पुनर्जीवन इसी जागरूकता, संघर्ष और प्रतिबद्धता का परिणाम है। आने वाले समय में यह जरूरी है कि इस काम को और मजबूती से आगे बढ़ाया जाए ताकि जलसंकट की समस्या का समाधान स्थानीय स्तर पर ही विकसित हो सके और परंपरागत जलस्रोत एक बार फिर से शहर की पहचान बनें। साथ ही यह लड़ाई व जागरूकता हर शहर के लोगों में आनी चाहिए ताकि पूरा प्रदेश, देश पानी की समस्या के प्रति सचेत हो सकें यही प्रयास जारी है।

कुओं के पुनर्जीवन से महाराष्ट्र की उपराजधानी नागपुर की सभी रहवासियों को इसका लाभ मिलेगा, साथ ही रेलवे को बढ़ी संख्या में पानी उपलब्ध होगा। शहर के 52 ऐतिहासिक कुएँ पुनर्जीवित हुए। अनेक कुओं पर आरओ प्लांट लगाकर पानी पीने के उपयोग में लाया जा रहा है। कुओं से लोगों के घरों तक पाइप लाइन बिछाकर बाहर के उपयोग के लिए कुएँ पर पंप लगाकर पानी पहुंचाया जा रहा है। बचे हुए करीब 800 कुओं की भी सफाई का कार्य शुरू हो गया है।



Reviving Water Security in the Thar Desert



Rajendra Kumar Singh
Senior Programme
Coordinator
Jodhpur Rajasthan

Community-Led Traditional
Water Harvesting for
Climate Resilience

The Thar Desert is one of India's most water-scarce and climatically harsh regions. Erratic rainfall, rising temperatures, declining traditional water systems, and unsustainable groundwater extraction have severely impacted agriculture, nutrition, health, and livelihoods. Women and marginalized communities are disproportionately affected, often forced to travel long distances to collect drinking water. Climate change has further intensified these vulnerabilities, making water security a critical survival challenge.

About the Work & Leadership

Rajendra Kumar, Senior Program Coordinator at GRAVIS, has been at the forefront of drought mitigation and water security initiatives since 1987. With over three decades of grassroots experience, he has led programmes on climate action, natural resource management, and community development, representing local voices at national and global forums. He has also supported the dissemination of Thar Desert's traditional rainwater harvesting practices in Kenya (Kajiado County) and Malawi (Dedza District).

GRAVIS : Scale & Philosophy

Rooted in Gandhian principles of Gram Swaraj and Sarvodaya, GRAVIS has supported over 2.5 million people across 2,000+ villages, strengthening more than 4,000 community-based organisations (CBOs). Entering its fifth decade, GRAVIS continues to focus on community empowerment as the foundation of sustainable water and livelihood security.

Traditional Water Harvesting & Innovations

GRAVIS has mobilized rural communities to revive and construct traditional water harvesting systems, supported by extensive capacity building :

Agriculture & Livelihood Resilience

To address drought-induced food and fodder insecurity, GRAVIS integrates soil and water conservation with traditional farming systems through the installation of 8,011 khadins (farming dykes), establishment of 676 community seed banks, development of 6,930 arid horticulture units, and creation of 93 pastureland areas.

Impact

The interventions ensured reliable access to clean drinking water for humans and livestock, strengthened drought preparedness and climate resilience, improved health, hygiene and nutrition outcomes, enhanced agricultural productivity and household incomes, and drove social transformation through higher school enrolment&especially among girls&while significantly reducing the daily drudgery faced by women.

Conclusion

By combining traditional wisdom, scientific understanding, and community leadership, GRAVIS has demonstrated that sustainable water security in arid landscapes is achievable. The Thar Desert model stands as a scalable, low-cost, and climate-resilient solution, offering valuable lessons for water-stressed regions across India and the Global South.



Bad Ka Talab Revival : A Village Reclaims Its Water



Rameshwar Lal Meena
Sawai Madhopur Rajasthan

How community action and innovation restored groundwater in Mohcha Ka Pura

In the village of Mohcha Ka Pura, home to nearly 4,000 residents and supporting around five surrounding villages, water was once abundant. The village had three natural water bodies that sustained agriculture, recharged groundwater, and met the drinking water needs of the community. Over time, however, these vital resources disappeared due to human intervention.

One water body was encroached upon by a farmer, while another was collectively filled by villagers, eventually becoming the site of a Higher Secondary School. The third water body, known locally as Bad Ka Talab, gradually dried up over the past two decades after its catchment area was encroached upon and converted into agricultural land.

The disappearance of these water bodies had severe consequences. Earlier, the groundwater level in the village was available at just 50–100 feet, but over the years it plummeted to nearly 600–700 feet. Traditional open wells dried up, and farmers had to rely on deep borewells to meet irrigation and drinking water needs. The groundwater was highly mineralised, particularly containing excessive fluoride, making it hard and often unsafe for consumption.

Realising that the village was heading towards a serious water crisis, local professionals and residents came together in 2020 to form a community organisation called “Gramin Jan Kalyan Vikas Samiti, Mohcha Ka Pura.” The organisation was formally registered under the Societies Act, with a clear mission—to revive the village’s last remaining water body, Bad Ka Talab.

During their search for solutions, the Samiti identified an abandoned artificial canal system located about 1.5 kilometres away, which still carried rainwater during the monsoon season. The idea was to divert this rainwater back to the pond. However, connecting the canal to the pond through open channels required digging across agricultural fields, something that farmers were unwilling to allow.

Determined to overcome this obstacle, the President of the Samiti proposed an innovative alternative—to connect the canal to the pond through an underground pipeline system. A detailed revival project was prepared and circulated among industries, institutions, and individuals seeking voluntary donations. With the Samiti being a registered organisation, it was able to mobilise sufficient financial support.

Within a year, the pipeline network was successfully installed, linking the canal to Bad Ka Talab and allowing monsoon water to flow into the revived pond. Alongside this water conservation effort, the Samiti also launched a large-scale plantation drive under the campaign “One Tree in the Name of Mother,” encouraging villagers to plant trees in honour of their mothers.

The results have been remarkable. For the past two years, the pond has been regularly filled during the rainy season, gradually restoring the natural

groundwater recharge system of the village. The groundwater level has begun to rise again, old dried wells have been revived, and borewells now yield water with significantly reduced mineral content.

Today, the revival of Bad Ka Talab is benefiting not only Mohcha Ka Pura but also five neighbouring villages, improving water availability, supporting agriculture, and strengthening environmental sustainability.

The inspiring transformation has been captured in a short documentary titled “Bad Ka Talab,” highlighting how community participation, innovative thinking, and local leadership can successfully address rural water challenges.

The story of Mohcha Ka Pura stands as a powerful reminder: when communities unite with purpose and determination, even a dried-up pond can become a source of life again.



Water Is Life: My Journey with the Jal Jan Abhiyan



Revathy, Brahma Kumaris
Cuddalore, Tamil Nadu

Water is the lifeblood of our planet, yet it faces an urgent crisis. Shrinking rivers, parched fields, and increasing scarcity demand immediate action. Recognizing this, the Government of India, under Narendra Modi, launched the Jal Jan Abhiyan, a nationwide campaign to promote water conservation and sustainable use. Partnering with the Brahma Kumaris, the movement combines science, governance, and spiritual awareness to inspire citizens to act.

The Brahma Kumaris Mission

The Brahma Kumaris is a global spiritual organization dedicated to inner transformation and social service. With more than 6,000 centers across 140 countries, it focuses on values, mindfulness, and service to humanity & creating a foundation for environmental stewardship and sustainable living. Through the Jal Jan Abhiyan partnership, Brahma Kumaris brings awareness, education, and community engagement to thousands of villages across India.

Community Outreach in Cuddalore, Tamil Nadu

As a volunteer, I have conducted awareness programs in schools, colleges, and rural communities in Cuddalore. Institutions such as Periyar Arts College, Immaculate College for Women, and Government Higher Secondary School in Panruti participated. Over 24,000 people have been reached through interactive workshops on:

- Rainwater harvesting
- Reuse and recycling of water
- Reducing wastage in households and farms

Quizzes and group discussions make learning engaging. Students actively discuss questions like how many major dams exist in India, the annual water availability vs. demand, and the importance of World Water Day.

Spiritual and Practical Dimensions of Conservation

Jal Jan Abhiyan emphasizes that water conservation is not just a practical necessity but a moral and spiritual responsibility. The Brahma Kumaris philosophy teaches that inner awareness leads to responsible actions. When individuals cultivate mindfulness and gratitude, their choices naturally reflect care for water and the environment.

Inspiring Action Through Simple Messages Powerful slogans like:

“Save Water, Save Life” “Every Drop Counts”

“Conserve Today, Survive Tomorrow”

reinforce the importance of protecting water. Villagers and students have adopted practices like rainwater collection, fixing leaking taps, and spreading awareness to families & creating a ripple effect of positive change.

A Ripple of Hope

Each workshop, conversation, and smile fuels the movement. Jal Jan Abhiyan inspires people to see water as sacred, a lifeline that sustains communities and future generations. By combining awareness, service, and spirituality, this campaign aims to ensure that every drop counts and that India’s water resources are preserved for tomorrow.

Save water, save life. Act together, build a better future.



Community Outreach in Cuddalore – Engaging schools, colleges, and villages to save water.



सचिन कुमार वैश्य, आईएएस
श्रीमाता वैष्णो देवी साईन बोर्ड कटरा, जम्मू



विनय खजुरिया
सहायक वन संरक्षक

→
आस्था, विज्ञान और
हरित भविष्य का
संगम
←



माता वैष्णो देवी : जहाँ आस्था और पर्यावरण संबंधी उत्तरदायित्व का संगम होता है

जम्मू एवं कश्मीर के माननीय उपराज्यपाल Manoj Sinha के मार्गदर्शन में Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB) पर्यावरण संरक्षण और सतत विकास को नई दिशा दे रहा है। इन प्रयासों की प्रेरणादायक कड़ी है-कटरा के समीप त्रिकुट पर्वत की शांत वादियों में स्थित कुनिया फॉरेस्ट नर्सरी।

जब सुबह की पहली किरण ओस से भीगे पौधों पर पड़ती है और पहाड़ी हवा मिट्टी की सुगंध को चारों ओर बिखेरती है, तब कुनिया नर्सरी केवल एक पौधशाला नहीं, बल्कि भविष्य की हरियाली का सजीव स्वप्न प्रतीत होती है। यहाँ शाइन बोर्ड के अधिकारी विजय खजूरिया के शब्द इस भावना को अभिव्यक्त करते हैं- “हम यहाँ पौधे नहीं, भविष्य उगाते हैं।”

नर्सरी की स्थापना का मूल उद्देश्य त्रिकुट पर्वत क्षेत्र में वनावरण बढ़ाना, स्थानीय जैव-विविधता को संरक्षित करना और तीर्थ क्षेत्र की नाजुक पारिस्थितिकी को सुदृढ़ बनाना है। हर वर्ष लाखों श्रद्धालु माता वैष्णो देवी के दर्शन के लिए आते हैं, और इस बढ़ती संख्या के बीच पर्यावरणीय संतुलन बनाए रखना एक बड़ी जिम्मेदारी है। कुनिया फॉरेस्ट नर्सरी इस दायित्व को संकल्प और समर्पण के साथ निभा रही है।

वर्तमान में नर्सरी में 130 प्रजातियाँ विकसित की जा रही हैं, जिनमें 70 वानिकी और 60 पुष्पीय प्रजातियाँ शामिल हैं। अर्जुन, आंवला, जामुन, अमलतास, सिल्वर ओक, देवदार, चीड़ और चिनार जैसे वृक्ष न केवल हरियाली बढ़ाते हैं, बल्कि स्थानीय पारिस्थितिकी को भी मजबूत करते हैं। ये पौधे आने वाले वर्षों में तीर्थ मार्ग, मंदिर परिसर और आसपास के वनक्षेत्रों को नई ऊर्जा और छाया प्रदान करेंगे।

आधुनिक तकनीकों से सुसज्जित यह नर्सरी एक ग्रीन टेक्नोलॉजी मॉडल के रूप में विकसित हुई है। हाई-टेक पॉलीहाउस, नियंत्रित तापमान इकाइयाँ, रेन गन स्प्रींकलर प्रणाली और 16 किलोवाट सौर ऊर्जा आधारित संचालन इसे ऊर्जा आत्मनिर्भर और पर्यावरण-मित्र बनाते हैं। वर्मी कम्पोस्ट यूनिट के माध्यम से जैविक खाद तैयार की जाती है, जिससे मिट्टी की उर्वरता बढ़ती है और रासायनिक उर्वरकों पर निर्भरता कम होती है।

नवाचार के क्षेत्र में भी यह नर्सरी अग्रणी है। QR आधारित सूचना प्रणाली के माध्यम से आगंतुक पौधों की वैज्ञानिक जानकारी, उपयोग और संरक्षण संबंधी विवरण अपने मोबाइल पर प्राप्त कर सकते हैं। साथ ही, नेचर इंटरप्रिटेशन सेंटर और सीड बैंक विद्यार्थियों, शोधकर्ताओं और प्रशिक्षणार्थियों के लिए अध्ययन एवं व्यावहारिक ज्ञान का उत्कृष्ट मंच प्रदान करते हैं।

कुनिया फॉरेस्ट नर्सरी केवल पौध उत्पादन का केंद्र नहीं, बल्कि “ग्रीन वैष्णो देवी” के संकल्प का प्रतीक है। यह पहल दर्शाती है कि आध्यात्मिक आस्था और पर्यावरणीय उत्तरदायित्व साथ-साथ आगे बढ़ सकते हैं।

त्रिकुट पर्वत की गोद में उगती हर नई कोंपल यह संदेश देती है कि सच्चा विकास वही है जो प्रकृति के साथ सामंजस्य स्थापित करे। कुनिया फॉरेस्ट नर्सरी आज एक हरित, स्वच्छ और संतुलित भविष्य की जीवंत कहानी बन चुकी है-जहाँ श्रद्धा और पर्यावरण संरक्षण का सुंदर संगम दिखाई देता है।





Sandeep Shirkhedkar

A Journey of Innovation,
Collaboration, and
Community Impact

Transforming Water Landscapes Through Engineering Excellence

A civil engineer by profession, this journey into water conservation began with a simple yet powerful intent—to create sustainable solutions for water scarcity. At the request of Mr. Manish Badiyani, a comprehensive technical proposal for water conservation was prepared for several villages in Hingna tehsil, District Nagpur.

The proposal was not only approved by the Government but also successfully attracted CSR funding, marking the beginning of a transformative initiative. Implemented under close technical supervision, the project received strong appreciation from government authorities, with its impact proving to be both significant and far-reaching.

One of the most notable contributions of this initiative has been the development of the innovative 80:20 concept—a low-cost, easy-to-execute, and highly effective water conservation technique. This approach has delivered remarkable results, demonstrating how simple, scalable solutions can create lasting change in rural water management.

Encouraged by the success in Hingna, the initiative was expanded to Mouda tehsil, where multiple CSR organizations partnered alongside the Government of Maharashtra. The successful implementation of the 80:20 model in this region earned national recognition, including a prestigious award, further validating its effectiveness and scalability.

Building on this momentum, similar water conservation projects were conceptualized and executed across several districts of Maharashtra, including Amravati, Yavatmal, Wardha, Washim, Chandrapur, Gadchiroli, Akola, and Buldhana. Each project reinforced the importance of community involvement, with people contributing through financial support, time, and active participation in management.

The impact extended beyond Maharashtra, with water conservation initiatives undertaken in Rampur district of Uttar Pradesh, as well as projects in Gujarat, Rajasthan, and Madhya Pradesh. This extensive work also led to engagements as a consultant with multiple state governments on water management strategies.

The success of these initiatives has been driven by a multifaceted role—effectively convincing government bodies, mobilizing CSR organizations, engaging and motivating farmers, and ensuring that every project remains technically sound and sustainable.

These efforts stand as a testament to how engineering expertise, combined with collaboration and community participation, can transform water landscapes and improve livelihoods. The journey continues, guided by the belief that sustainable water management is not just a necessity, but a shared responsibility.



JIVA : A Grassroots Model for Climate-Resilient Agriculture



Sanjay Kumar Singh
Jiva, Jharkhand

Promoting Agroecology,
Sustainable Farming and
Livelihood Security in
Hazaribagh, Jharkhand

The JIVA Project, spearheaded by Jan Jagran Kendra (JJK) with the support of National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), is an innovative initiative aimed at promoting climate-resilient and agroecological farming practices in the Bishnugarh and Tatijhariya blocks of Hazaribagh district in Jharkhand. The project seeks to demonstrate how sustainable agriculture can restore ecological balance while strengthening rural livelihoods.

In its pilot phase, JIVA engages 50 small and marginal farmers across nine villages, encouraging them to gradually transition from chemical-intensive farming to environmentally sustainable agricultural practices. Rooted in the principles of natural farming and ecosystem regeneration, the initiative focuses on improving soil fertility, conserving water resources, and promoting diversified cropping systems suited to local climatic conditions.

The project introduces several context-specific innovations such as Dhaincha-based green manuring, NADEP compost tanks, bio-inputs, and indigenous seed banks to enhance soil health and reduce dependency on chemical fertilizers. Through participatory approaches like Participatory Rural Appraisal (e-PRA) and Focus Group Discussions, farmers actively contribute to identifying local challenges and shaping solutions tailored to their needs.

Capacity building forms a core component of the initiative. Farmers receive hands-on training in preparing natural inputs like Jeevamrit and vermicompost, while exposure visits encourage peer-to-peer learning and knowledge exchange. These efforts empower farmers with practical skills to adopt sustainable farming methods that are both cost-effective and environmentally friendly.

JIVA also promotes nutrition-sensitive agriculture by encouraging backyard gardens, polyculture farming systems, and climate-resilient crops such as millets and pulses. These practices not only strengthen household nutrition but also improve farm resilience against climate variability.

The initiative further emphasizes gender-inclusive institutional strengthening and community participation. Farmer Resource Persons (FRPs) serve as local knowledge leaders who guide and support fellow farmers in adopting agroecological practices. The project also facilitates the establishment of common resource centres and small value-addition infrastructure, including solar dryers and spice grinders, enabling farmers to enhance product quality and improve market access.

Early outcomes from the pilot indicate improved soil health, reduced dependence on chemical inputs, better climate adaptability, and enhanced livelihood opportunities for participating farmers. By integrating ecological restoration with community empowerment, the JIVA model demonstrates how grassroots initiatives can address the challenges of climate change in rain-fed and ecologically fragile regions. More than just a pilot project, JIVA represents a promising blueprint for climate-responsive agriculture, highlighting the importance of collaboration among communities, institutions, and policymakers to mainstream agroecology in India's agricultural future.





Suja Mathai
Associate Professor &
Head

A Model Institution for Sustainable Water Management

Established in 1949, Mar Ivanios College (Autonomous), Thiruvananthapuram, is a premier institution under the University of Kerala, inspired by the visionary ideals of its founder, Servant of God Archbishop Mar Ivanios. A pioneer in academic and environmental excellence, the college was the first private college under the University of Kerala to be recognised as a College with Potential for Excellence (CPE) by the UGC. It was granted autonomy in 2014, reaccredited with an A++ grade by NAAC (2024), and ranked 61st among Arts and Science colleges in NIRF 2025.

Comprehensive Water Action Plan

To address recurring summer water scarcity, the college implemented a robust Water Action Plan focusing on rainwater harvesting, efficient usage, and awareness generation. The initiative ensures sustainable water availability for over 4,300 daily campus users, including students, faculty, and staff.

The Rainwater Harvesting System, covering a 1,650 sq m rooftop area, features a multi-stage filtration and purification mechanism for groundwater recharge. With an annual storage capacity of 4.2 million litres, the system has significantly reduced dependence on external water sources, mitigated seasonal shortages, and lowered electricity consumption.

Efficient Water Use & Behavioural Change

Low-flow devices such as push-up taps and sprinkler-based irrigation systems have been installed across the campus, resulting in an 11% reduction in water consumption. Regular awareness programmes including debates, essay competitions, and campaigns on themes like “Save the Single Drop” have fostered responsible water-use behaviour among students and staff.

Green Campus & Biodiversity Enhancement

The college has planted 175 trees on and around the campus, with a target of 200, and developed dedicated green spaces such as Madhuravanam (fruit garden), a medicinal plant garden, and a butterfly garden. These initiatives have strengthened campus biodiversity and reinforced ecological learning.

Innovation & Community Outreach

Innovative interventions include the design of a centrifugal rainwater filtration system and the sponsorship of a rainwater harvesting unit at Mar Gregorios Memorial Snehaveedu, a local senior care centre. Under the Jal Jeevan and Jal Shakti initiatives, the college conducts outreach programmes, demonstrations, and competitions in neighbouring schools to promote community adoption of sustainable practices.

Impact & Replicability

The campus is now water self-sufficient year-round, with improved groundwater levels observed in nearby residential areas such as Benedict Nagar. The college’s integrated model combining rooftop collection, filtration, storage, and reuse is simple, cost-effective, and highly replicable.

Way Forward

Future plans include installing 50 additional push-up taps, expanding sprinkler systems, and strengthening research and monitoring mechanisms for water management.



To address recurring summer water scarcity, the college implemented a robust Water Action Plan focusing on rainwater harvesting, efficient usage, and awareness generation

The Coconut Comeback Story



Thirunavukkarasu
Tamilnadu

Recognized as “Migachcha Jaiva Karshagan” by the Government of Kerala, Thirunavukkarasu turns his farm into a classroom for the future.

Hailing from Palakkad, Kerala, Thirunavukkarasu has emerged as a leading advocate of natural farming practices in the region. His journey toward sustainable agriculture began after attending a workshop by Subash Palekar, which deeply inspired him to adopt chemical-free and eco-friendly farming methods.

In 2015, he further strengthened his knowledge by attending a Natural Farming course conducted by SSIASST. The training equipped him with practical techniques and encouraged him to prepare natural inputs such as Jeevamrutham, Panchagavya, and fruit enzymes to rejuvenate soil health.

Through consistent application of these natural formulations, the fertility of his soil improved remarkably, with earthworm populations increasing significantly & a clear indicator of restored soil vitality.

Tackling the White Fly Crisis in Coconut Cultivation

Coconut farmers in Palakkad and bordering regions of Tamil Nadu had been severely affected by white fly infestations, leading many to abandon coconut cultivation in favor of paddy farming. Undeterred, Thirunavukkarasu experimented tirelessly to find a sustainable solution.

Though many initial efforts proved unsuccessful, his persistent use of Panchagavya, Jeevamrutham, and fruit enzyme sprays helped control white fly attacks effectively. His methods reduced crop loss and restored confidence among coconut growers.

As a result, nearly 300 coconut farmers benefitted from his guidance, with many continuing coconut cultivation instead of shifting to paddy. His natural remedy gained wider recognition when it was featured in Sakshi, reaching coconut growers in coastal districts of Andhra Pradesh, including Visakhapatnam and Srikakulam.

Remarkable Yield Improvement

By consistently practicing natural farming, Thirunavukkarasu witnessed substantial improvements in crop yield and quality. The average weight of coconuts increased from 300 grams to 500 grams & a significant achievement that further motivated neighboring farmers to adopt natural farming techniques.

Professors visiting from Tamil Nadu Agricultural University were impressed by his results and encouraged him to continue his practices.

Recognition and Contribution

In recognition of his dedication and success, the Government of Kerala honored him with the district award “Migachcha Jaiva Karshagan” (Best Natural Farmer) for the year 2020–21.

Beyond personal success, Thirunavukkarasu has transformed his farm into a learning center for aspiring young farmers and those willing to transition to natural farming, thereby contributing significantly to sustainable agriculture and rural empowerment.



जल संरक्षण से जनकल्याण की ओर



उमेश मिश्रा, आईएएस
डिस्ट्रिक्ट मजिस्ट्रेट, मुजफ्फरनगर

मुजफ्फरनगर जनपद में नदी पुनर्जीवन, जल संरचनाओं का जीर्णोद्धार एवं सामुदायिक सहभागिता की अनुकरणीय पहल

पश्चिमी उत्तर प्रदेश का आर्थिक रूप से समृद्ध जनपद मुजफ्फरनगर, जो राष्ट्रीय राजधानी क्षेत्र (NCR) का हिस्सा है, गंगा, काली/नागिन एवं हिंडन नदियों के प्रवाह क्षेत्र में स्थित है। कृषि एवं उद्योग की मिश्रित अर्थव्यवस्था तथा कुल कृषकीय क्षेत्रफल के लगभग 85 प्रतिशत में गन्ना उत्पादन के कारण यह जनपद देशभर में “चीनी बाउल” के रूप में विख्यात है। माननीय प्रधानमंत्री श्री नरेन्द्र मोदी जी के “वाटर विजन 2047” एवं उत्तर प्रदेश के माननीय मुख्यमंत्री श्री योगी आदित्यनाथ जी के जल संरक्षण व नदी पुनर्जीवन के संकल्प को मार्गदर्शक मानते हुए, जिलाधिकारी के नेतृत्व में जनपद प्रशासन द्वारा जल संरक्षण के क्षेत्र में व्यापक एवं प्रभावी कार्य किए जा रहे हैं।

इन पहलों में सोलानी नदी सफाई, शुकतीर्थ जीर्णोद्धार, मोती झील पुनरोद्धार, अमृत सरोवर एवं तालाब खुदाई, नागिन/पूर्वी काली नदी जीर्णोद्धार तथा हैदरपुर वेटलैण्ड (रामसर साइट) के संरक्षण जैसे महत्वपूर्ण कार्य सम्मिलित हैं।

पौराणिक शुकतीर्थ, जो सोलानी नदी के तट पर स्थित है, में प्रतिवर्ष कार्तिक गंगा स्नान एवं जेठी दशहरा जैसे विशाल धार्मिक आयोजन होते हैं। सोलानी नदी की सफाई को एक वृहद जन-आंदोलन का स्वरूप दिया गया, जिसमें मण्डलीय आयुक्त, जनपद प्रशासन, जनप्रतिनिधि, स्कूली छात्र, एनसीसी/एनएसएस कैडेट्स, स्वयंसेवी संस्थाएँ तथा साधु-संतों ने सक्रिय सहभागिता की। इस अभियान से लगभग 15,000 मानव-दिवस सृजित हुए और शासकीय संसाधनों की उल्लेखनीय बचत हुई।

जनपद की ऐतिहासिक एवं पौराणिक धरोहर मोती झील (पर्दाफास), जो अतिक्रमण व उपेक्षा के कारण विलुप्ति की कगार पर थी, को जनपद प्रशासन के नेतृत्व में पुनर्जीवित किया गया। लगभग दो माह तक प्रतिदिन 50x100 कार्मिकों व जनसहयोग से झील की सफाई, जलकुंभी निष्कासन एवं प्राकृतिक शोधन किया गया। झील के चारों ओर पंचवटी वृक्षारोपण, सौंदर्यीकरण, वॉकिंग ट्रैक, नौकायन तथा हाट-बाजार विकसित कर इसे शहरवासियों के लिए पिकनिक स्पॉट के रूप में स्थापित किया जा रहा है।

जल संकट के समाधान हेतु मिशन अमृत सरोवर एवं अटल भूजल योजना के अंतर्गत जनपद में कुल 173 तालाबों का जीर्णोद्धार किया गया, जिसमें 225.09 एकड़ क्षेत्रफल में खुदाई हुई। इससे 1,45,451 मानव-दिवस सृजित हुए तथा वर्षाकाल में लगभग 84.62 करोड़ लीटर भूजल पुनर्भरण का अनुमान है। इनमें से 63 अमृत सरोवरों में स्वयं सहायता समूहों की महिलाओं द्वारा सिंचाई उत्पादन किया जा रहा है, जिससे लगभग 600 महिलाओं को प्रतिवर्ष स्थायी आर्थिक लाभ प्राप्त हो रहा है।

नागिन/काली नदी के जीर्णोद्धार के अंतर्गत 8.76 हेक्टेयर भूमि को अतिक्रमण मुक्त कर घाटी की व्यापक सफाई की गई। वहीं हैदरपुर वेटलैण्ड, जो 2021 में रामसर साइट घोषित हुआ, में सोलानी नदी के जल प्रवाह को बेहतर बनाकर जैव विविधता संरक्षण के निरंतर प्रयास किए जा रहे हैं। यहाँ बारहसिंहा, डॉल्फिन, मगर एवं लगभग 360 पक्षी प्रजातियाँ पाई जाती हैं, जिससे यह क्षेत्र शीतकालीन पर्यटन का प्रमुख केंद्र बन गया है।

इन सभी प्रयासों से जनपद में भूजल स्तर में वृद्धि, धार्मिक एवं प्राकृतिक धरोहरों का संरक्षण, ग्रामीण आजीविका सशक्तिकरण, महिला आर्थिक भागीदारी तथा पर्यावरणीय स्थिरता को बल मिला है। जनसहभागिता आधारित जल संरक्षण मॉडल के माध्यम से मुजफ्फरनगर जनपद ने यह सिद्ध किया है कि समन्वित प्रशासनिक नेतृत्व और सामुदायिक सहभागिता से जल संकट का स्थायी समाधान संभव है।



अमृत सरोवर तालाब पर वृक्षारोपण कार्य



विलुप्तिकारी की उपेक्षा मित्रा द्वारा हैदरपुर वेटलैण्ड का निरीक्षण करते हुए



अमृत सरोवर तालाब की सफाई



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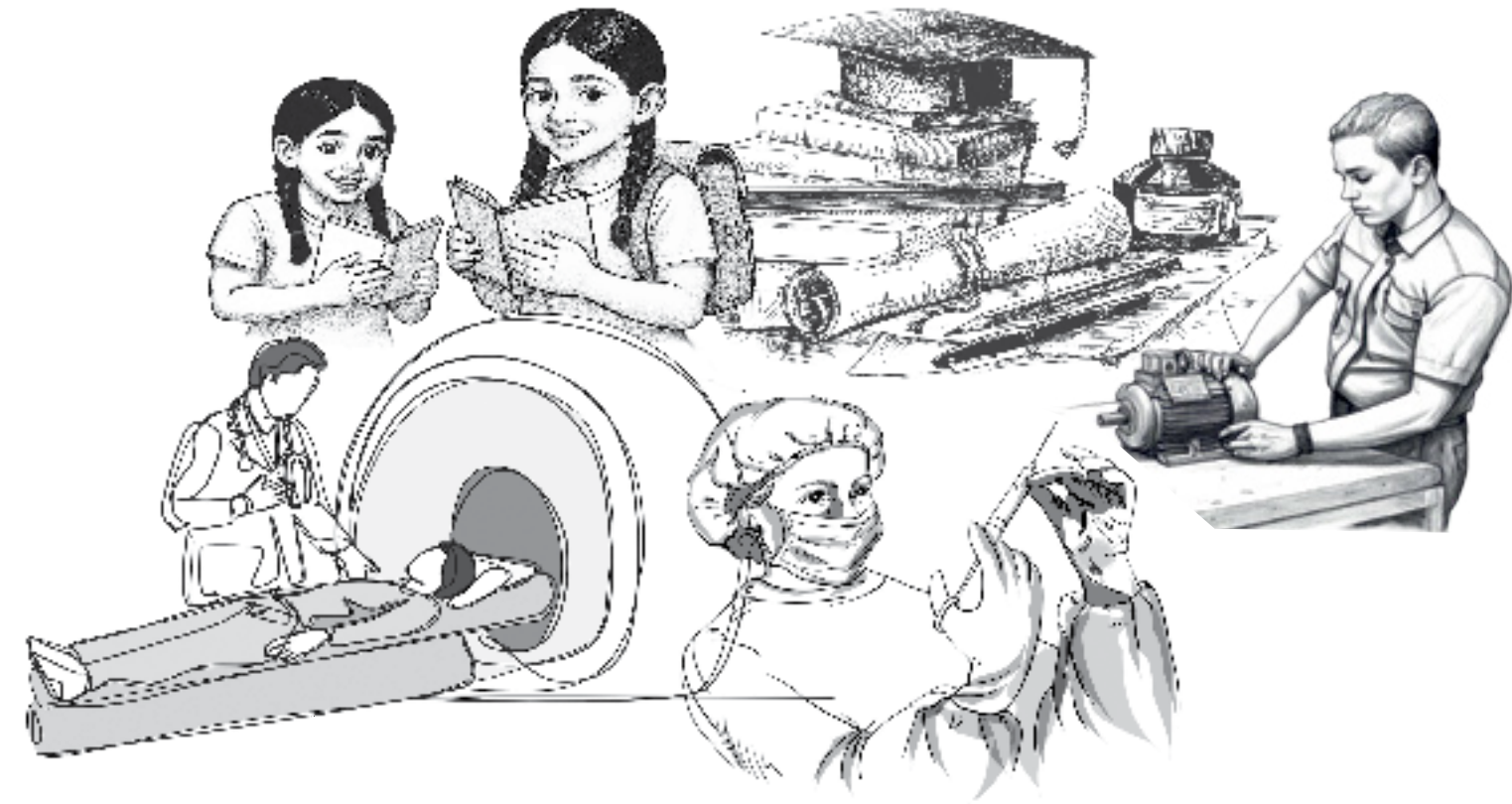
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Achieved highest-ever coal production of 69.121 MT. ●

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WCL is the pioneering CIL subsidiary to receive Final Mine Closure Certificates for 3 key mines: Pathakhera-II UG, Satpura-II UG, and Pathakhera-I UG. ●

Planted 584,300 plants, covering an area of 207.50 hectares, including 1-hectare Miyawaki forest. ●

CSR spending soared by 275% YoY, rising from Rs.13.97 Cr to Rs.52.51 Cr, demonstrating our unwavering commitment to community welfare. ●

We Join Parts to make it Whole. When Coal Mining is clubbed with environment conservation, corporate social responsibility and several other key initiatives of common good, we create a win-win situation for all. This is what we call **Responsible Coal Mining**.

We work Water Wise

Tata Motors is committed to responsible water stewardship — within our plants and in the communities we serve.

Our facilities continuously adopt efficient water usage and recycling practices, while our community initiatives have revitalized

1500+ water bodies

adding nearly

3000 crore litres of storage

and benefiting

1200 villages

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