



One Earth, Numerous lives: From Mountains to Marine Annual Report 2025–2026



Conserving Nature | Protecting Rivers & Forests | Conserving Wildlife Habitats |
Empowering Communities | Encouraging Sustainability | Creating Awareness

Director's Statement

Small steps with big, meaningful impact. That would be the short summary of one year of labour done by the small team at Vanashakti in the financial year 2025–2026. Years pass by, and the journey has only gotten tougher. With each passing day, we witness a continued onslaught on our life support systems—our ecosystems and biodiversity. Not a day passes without reading or hearing some depressing news about more trees lost, more wetlands buried, more rivers destroyed, and more wildlife habitats ruined.

Amidst all the bombardment of our natural bioshields, we have stood our ground. We have saved, restored, and enriched whatever was humanly possible. Using every tool in the armory of conservation, we at Vanashakti have soldiered on. From raising awareness through educational programs, to ground interventions to restore degraded landscapes, to empowering forest-dependent communities, to monitoring rivers and stopping pollution—we have been at the forefront as caretakers, defenders, and guardians of nature.

Our concerted efforts for Mother Nature have yielded much-needed respite, but the mission is not over yet. We very humbly state that under extremely testing conditions, we did what was needed. Thousands of lives have been impacted positively, thousands of acres of forests saved, and countless birds and animals protected.

Having said that, we wade into the future with a heavy burden that we cannot be expected to carry alone. This mission needs you, and I believe that the annual report does convey the intensity and dedication with which we worked through the last year. Our hearts go out in gratitude to all our patrons and supporters who stood with us in testing times.

We look ahead and walk forward, hoping to see more shoulders standing alongside us and stronger foundations being laid—all in the mission of keeping intergenerational equity intact.

Jai Hind.

Stalin Dayanand

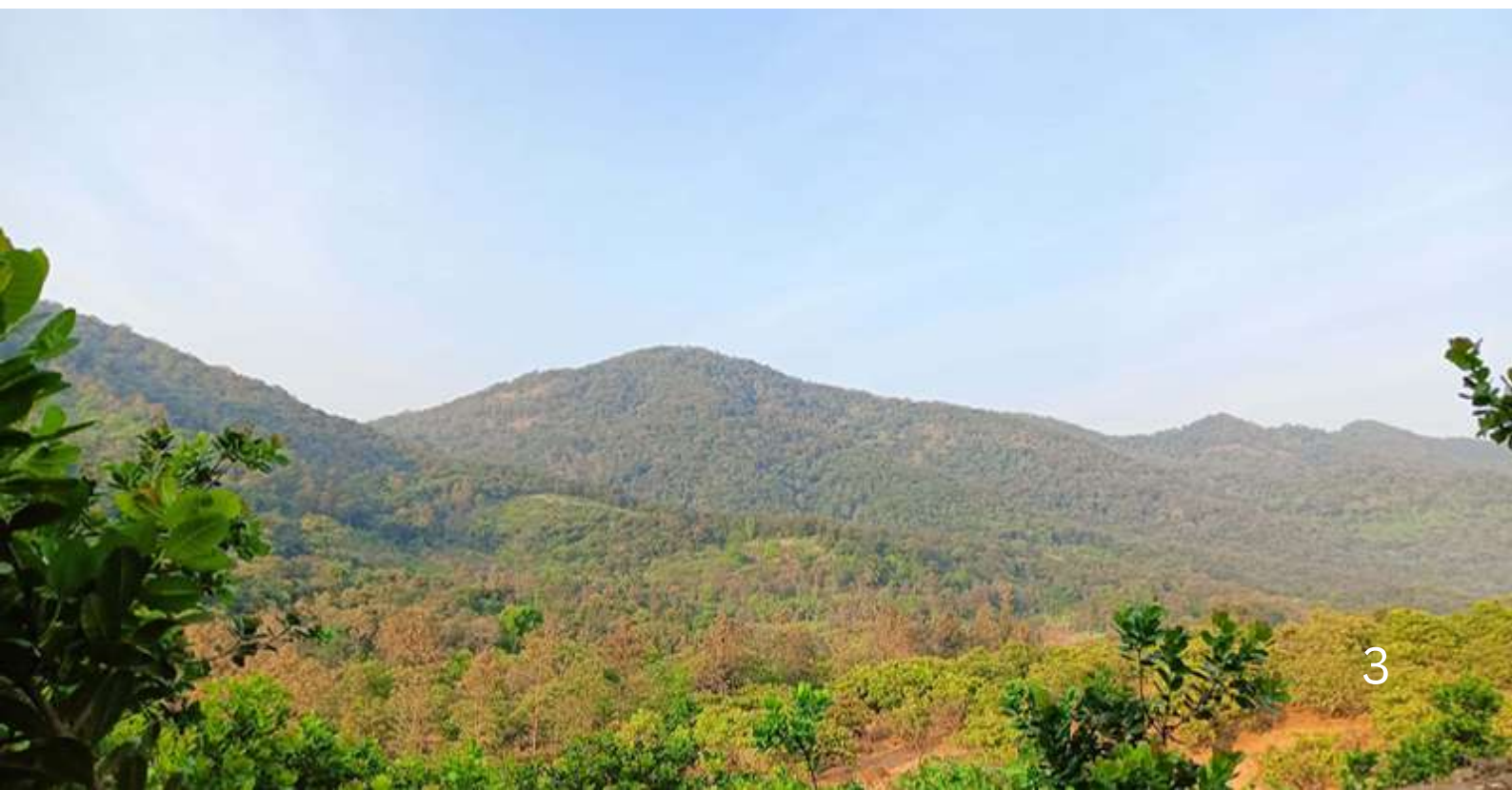
Who We Are...



Vanashakti is a Mumbai-based environmental non-profit focused on the conservation of India's natural ecosystems, including forests, mangroves, rivers, wetlands, and wildlife habitats. We adopt a holistic source-to-sea approach that recognises the interconnectedness of mountains, rivers, forests, and oceans. Our work strengthens these interdependent systems through integrated, science-led conservation actions.

We deliver environmental education for urban and rural communities and implement innovative green theatre programmes to drive public engagement. We support sustainable livelihoods for forest-dependent communities and undertake scientific research to address environmental degradation. Through continuous advocacy, we promote afforestation, ecosystem restoration, and strengthened environmental governance.

We believe India's long-term economic growth depends on responsible environmental stewardship. By conserving ecosystems we contribute to climate resilience, biodiversity conservation, and sustainable development for present and future generations.



Our Footprint: Mountains to Oceans

Mumbai



Palghar



Sindhudurg



Lucknow



Impact at a Glance | FY 2025–26

4,19,975

Individuals Engaged Through Programmes, Community Engagements, and Social Media Outreach

24,260

Learners Impacted Through Environmental Education and Awareness Sessions

29+

Tonnes of non-biodegradable waste removed from coastal, wetland, and marine ecosystems, directly reducing pollution loads and safeguarding biodiversity-rich habitats.

164.5

Hectares of seabed restored, supporting the recovery of marine ecosystems like coral reefs and protecting critical coastal and fisheries-dependent livelihoods.

2480+

Volunteers mobilised, including corporate employees, students, and local communities, promoting inclusive participation and shared ownership of environmental outcomes.

Impact at a Glance

FY 2025–26

12000+

Hectares of mangrove forests protected, safeguarding critical coastal buffers, biodiversity hotspots, and climate-resilient ecosystems.

3100

Saplings planted as part of habitat restoration and afforestation efforts, contributing to increased green cover, ecosystem resilience, and climate change mitigation.

25

Villages notified as Ecologically Sensitive Areas (ESA) in Sindhudurg district, ensuring long-term protection of fragile ecosystems and community livelihoods.

190+

crore was directed to be recovered by the Bombay High Court as environmental compensation and penalties for illegal quarrying activities near Badlapur in Thane district.

1000+

RTIs filed, strengthening transparency, environmental governance, and accountability in matters related to ecological protection and regulatory enforcement.

Environmental Awareness Sessions and Workshops

401

Environmental awareness sessions conducted, engaging diverse stakeholder groups across schools, colleges, communities, and institutions.



- 192 lectures and masterclasses, focused on ecological literacy, conservation science, and sustainability practices
- 45 outdoor learning activities, including nature trails, field visits, and ecosystem-based experiential learning
- 47 documentary screenings and environmental competitions, fostering awareness through visual storytelling and participatory engagement
- 117 hands-on workshops, enabling skill development, critical thinking, and action oriented environmental learning

24260 Learners engaged

65 Institutional collaborations



Language in which sessions are conducted : English, Marathi, Hindi, and Urdu.



The Living Theatricals

The Green Theatrical Group uses interactive street theatre to promote environmental awareness and behavioural change at the grassroots level. Through engaging storytelling and live performances, the initiative simplifies complex issues such as deforestation, climate change, biodiversity conservation, and sustainable living. The programme has shown strong impact in rural and tribal communities, where culturally rooted performances enhance understanding and participation. By fostering dialogue and community ownership, the initiative strengthens local stewardship of natural resources.

58 Street plays conducted



4650+ Total audience reached



14,530+ Reach through social media

21 Villages and Hamlets reached





Nature Trails and Walks

Nature trails are a key component of our experiential environmental education model, bridging classroom learning with real-world ecosystems. Through guided, expert-led explorations of biodiversity, coastal habitats, wetlands, and forests, participants gain practical understanding of ecological processes and conservation challenges. By transforming observations into awareness and action, the programme strengthens environmental literacy and fosters responsible stewardship across communities.

38

Total Nature trails
conducted

2450

Participants
reached





पेकसत्ता प्रतिनिधी

लो

जैवविविधतेचे महत्त्व
पटण्यासाठी आधी ती आपल्या
आजूबाजूला आहे, याची
जाणीव घ्यायला हवी. मग त्या
जाणीवेतून मानव निसर्गाशी
नाते निर्माण करू शकतो.

या भ्रमंतीतून जैवविविधतेचे
महत्त्व समजावू



दृढ इच्छा,

नागरिकांना माहिती मिळायची

परिसरात निसर्गभ्रमंतीचे आयोजन करण्यात आले होते. यात शालेय

निसर्ग ज्ञान

या धर्मोत्ती दस्त्यास सहभागीना वंदा ऑर्किड, राज हळद
काळी मुखी, तेरडा, रामभेटी, जंगली मेढी, सीतेवी
वेणी, रामद्रास, तसेच दिंडा, टाकळ, दिम्बिया (कंदळ)
कुई, भुई आदळ अशा विविध राजकुले, औषधी वनस्प
य रामभाज्या पाहण्याला मिळाल्या. शिवाय होमकाचळ,
भाद्रपद, शिपी, रोझ रिंग पॅराक्वी (पोपट) असे पक्षी
तसेच अनेक रंगीबेरंगी फुलपाखरे आणि विविध प्रकारा
कीटकांची माहितीही देण्यात आली. या निर्सर्जकमेतीत
वैविध्यधर्तेचे महत्त्व, पशुधरर संरंधर्याची गरज व
निरसर्जकी निगडिती झाले या सर्व्या परिघड झाल्याची
भाजना सहभागीनी व्यक्त केली.

होते, या जिन्हें
पाएँ

Taking Environmental Days to Communities

Celebrating key environmental days strengthens collective awareness and shared responsibility towards nature while creating platforms for dialogue and action on pressing ecological issues. These observances bring together communities, institutions, and partners to foster collaboration and amplify conservation efforts at the grassroots level. Most importantly, they help cultivate a lasting culture of environmental stewardship across generations.

- World Aquatic Animal Day
- International Paper Bag Day
- World Wetland Day
- International Leopard Day
- World Bee Day
- World Turtle Day
- World Soil Day
- World Environment Day
- World Sea Turtle Day
- Shark Awareness Day
- World Snake Day
- International Mangrove Day
- International Nature Conservation Day
- World Tiger Day
- International Indigenous People Day
- World Lion Day
- World Elephant Day
- World Water Day
- International Vulture Awareness Day
- World Migratory Bird Day
- International Earth Day
- National Forest Day
- National Wildlife Week
- International Day for Rivers
- Coastal Cleanup Day

46,000+ People reached



Sagarshakti- Oceans and People

Sagarshakti, Vanashakti's coastal conservation initiative, works to protect ecologically significant habitats such as mangroves, mudflats, fishing grounds, and tidal pools that sustain coastal livelihoods. The programme actively engages local fisherfolk in conservation efforts, conducts regular ecological monitoring and clean-up drives, and strengthens community-led stewardship.

In addition, Sagarshakti undertakes legal advocacy to safeguard the rights of traditional fishing communities and promote the sustainable use of marine resources.



Clean-up Initiatives

Cleanup initiatives across forests, lakes, rivers, mangroves, beaches, and underwater coral reefs, serve as impactful, action-oriented initiatives that directly reduce environmental pollution while restoring fragile habitats. By mobilising volunteers, institutions, and local stakeholders, these efforts promote responsible waste management and collective accountability towards natural ecosystems. Beyond immediate restoration, such drives inspire sustained behavioural change and strengthen long-term environmental stewardship.

35 Drives conducted

29.2 Tonnes of waste collected

2480 People involved

1,06,330 People reached through social media





Marine Debris Clean-up Initiative

The Marine Debris Cleaning Program addresses the increasing threat of marine pollution to coastal biodiversity, fisheries, and local livelihoods. By removing significant quantities of marine debris and restoring coral reefs (marine habitats), the programme strengthens community partnerships, safeguards biodiversity, and supports sustainable livelihoods and ecotourism along the Konkan coastline.

10 Drives
conducted

3,144 Kgs of marine
debris removed

164.4 Hectares of ocean
floor cleaned

52,560 People reached (In
person and through
social media)





Sea bed Cleaned



Samudrarakshak Sanmelan

Samudrarakshak Sanmelan was a platform to discuss key issues and challenges related to coastal conservation and the livelihoods of traditional fishing communities. The event also recognised and appreciated the efforts of stakeholders and the scuba diving team for their valuable participation in the marine debris clean-up initiative.



Konkan Ridge to Reef Conservation Initiative

This year, we continued our focused efforts to address deforestation in the crucial sections of the Sahyadri-Konkan Corridor of Western Ghats. We strengthened advocacy initiatives and scientific research to support the declaration and effective protection of Eco-Sensitive Zones, particularly within critical wildlife corridors (Sahyadri Konkan Corridor).

In parallel, we expanded community-led clean-up drives and environmental education programmes to build awareness and encourage long-term conservation stewardship. Through integrated action across advocacy, restoration, and outreach, we worked to safeguard fragile ecosystems while supporting sustainable local livelihoods.



Olive Ridley Turtle Conservation Initiative

The Olive Ridley Conservation Initiative focuses on safeguarding critical nesting habitats along the Konkan coast. This year, the programme expanded its efforts to protect the nesting site at Wayangani Beach in Sindhudurg district, an important yet vulnerable nesting ground for Olive Ridley turtles.

The initiative involves monitoring nesting activity, engaging local communities and volunteers in conservation efforts, and creating awareness about the protection of marine turtles and their habitats. Through community participation and conservation action, the programme aims to ensure safer nesting conditions while promoting long-term protection of coastal biodiversity.

**1200 +
Hatchlings
released safely**



North India Chapter

The Lucknow wing of Vanashakti under the guidance of Dr. Uma Shanker Singh, IFS has been actively advancing environmental conservation and awareness across Uttar Pradesh. The team leads initiatives focused on urban greening, community outreach, and structured educational programmes to strengthen ecological understanding.

Through sustained engagement and collaborative action, Vanashakti's Lucknow initiatives promote environmental stewardship, community participation, and the adoption of sustainable practices in the region.



Project Clean Rivers

Project Clean River is Vanashakti's dedicated initiative to monitor and restore the ecological health of rivers including the Ulhas, Waldhuni, Kamvari, Kasardi, Chene, Mithi, Gomati, and Kukrail. The project involves regular pollution assessments to identify contamination sources and push for timely corrective actions.

Through sustained monitoring efforts, we have identified instances of illegal discharge from MIDCs, textile units and municipal corporations into these river systems, strengthening the case for regulatory enforcement and river restoration.

51 Field monitoring visits undertaken to identify encroachments, effluent discharge, and illegal dumping of waste and debris.



Nourishing Lives and Livelihoods Through Purposeful Planting

Through this programme, we are not only planting trees but also creating pathways for the socio-economic upliftment of tribal women and promoting sustainable livelihoods. The grafted fruit-bearing trees planted today will, in the coming years, serve as a reliable source of nutrition and income for tribal families living in remote hamlets of the Tansa Valley region. This initiative strengthens community resilience while encouraging long-term environmental stewardship and sustainable living practices.

3100 Saplings
Planted

8 No. of hamlets
reached

165 families
benefitted







Legal Interventions

- **Challenge to Wetlands Rules, 2017 before the Supreme Court (WP No. 302 of 2020)** – By an order dated 19.08.2025, the Supreme Court directed all States to expedite ground-truthing and boundary demarcation of wetlands within two months and to publish wetland notifications on their official websites with clearly demarcated boundaries. The Court further directed that 5,55,557 wetlands smaller than 2.25 hectares must also be identified and recorded.
- **Challenge to Office Memorandums under EIA Notification allowing grant of post facto Environment Clearances – WP No. 1394 of 2023** - By judgment dated 16.05.2025, the Supreme Court, in a petition filed by Vanashakti, held that post-facto Environmental Clearances are impermissible, as the law mandates a prior EC, and accordingly set aside all OMs/Guidelines/Circulars/Notifications issued by the Union of India permitting post-facto approvals and restrained the Union from issuing similar notifications in the future. However, in a review petition filed by the Confederation of Real Estate Developers of India, the Supreme Court by majority (2:1) order dated 18.11.2025 recalled the judgment and directed re-hearing of WP No. 1394 of 2023, which remains pending.
- **Challenge to the Office Memorandum which exempted industrial and educational buildings from the applicability of EIA Notification, 2006 (WP No. 166 of 2025)** – By judgment dated 05.08.2025, the Supreme Court set aside a portion of the Amendment Notification read with the Office Memorandum issued by the Union of India, which had exempted industrial and educational buildings from obtaining Environmental Clearance under the EIA Notification, 2006.
- **Kanjurmarg dumping ground (PIL NO. 20 OF 2013)** – By way of judgment dated 02.05.2025, the High Court of Bombay held that the location of Kanjurmarg dumping ground continued in an area of 141 ha. inside the Thane Creek continued to remain a forest land (mangrove forest) and set aside the notification of the State Government which de-notified the said mangrove lands without following the mandate of the Forest Conservation Act, 1980 while further directing that the entire forest lands be restored to its original position.



Legal Interventions

- **Transfer of mangroves from government agencies to Forest Department (PIL No. 14 of 2021)** - By a detailed order dated 26.09.2025, the Bombay High Court directed the personal appearance of the District Collectors of all six coastal districts of Maharashtra and further directed that all mangrove areas under various government agencies be transferred to the Forest Department within six months. Till the time of preparation of this report over 11,000 hectares of mangrove forests have been transferred into the protective hands of forest department.
- **Change of location of rehabilitation of encroachers of SGNP from Aarey Colony to outside of Aarey Colony [IA(L) No. 31290 of 2024 in PIL No. 48 of 2023]** -By order dated 12.11.2025, the Bombay High Court, after hearing Vanashakti's submissions that Aarey Colony is a forest area and that the issue of declaring Aarey as a forest is pending before the Supreme Court, directed the State Government to identify three alternative sites of 90 acres each for rehabilitation, which need not necessarily be near SGNP.
- **Air Pollution in Mumbai (Suo Motu PIL No. 3 of 2023)** - Upon hearing Vanashakti as an intervenor, by order dated 29.01.2026, the Bombay High Court directed the constitution of a High Powered Committee comprising Justice Amjad Sayed and Justice Smt. Anuja Prabhudessai to monitor and supervise implementation of short-term and long-term measures to address air pollution in Mumbai.
- **Declaration of Critical Wildlife Habitats (CWH) in State of Maharashtra (PIL No. 131 of 2014)** - By order dated 12.11.2025, the Bombay High Court directed the State Government to immediately declare Critical Wildlife Habitats in 15 sanctuaries and national parks falling under Category 'A' (areas free from human habitation) before 12.02.2026, following which the State Government submitted its final proposal to the Union of India for notification.
- **Removal of cage culture/aquaculture activity from Vadiwale Lake, Pune (MA No. 5 of 2024 in EA No. 12 of 2022 in OA No. 80 of 2020)** - By order dated 29.07.2025, the National Green Tribunal (NGT) directed that no aqua cage culture activity shall be permitted in Vadivale Lake and further ordered that all toilets constructed in the water be removed.

ACHIEVEMENTS



Indian Responsible Tourism State Awards 2026-Maharashtra Chapter Silver - Sustainable Leadership: Nature Conservation



Ecologically Sensitive Area Declaration – Sawantwadi–Dodamarg Corridor

In February 2026, the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) declared 212.59 sq km across 25 villages in the Sawantwadi–Dodamarg wildlife corridor of Sindhudurg district as an Ecologically Sensitive Area (ESA). This landmark notification is the outcome of a 14-year-long advocacy effort led by Vanashakti, along with local communities and environmentalists, ensuring stronger protection for this critical Western Ghats wildlife corridor.

ACHIEVEMENTS



Director Stalin D. has been awarded by Samajvrat Award for 2025 in recognition of two decades of conservation by We Need You Society, Thane



Following legal intervention, the Bombay High Court confirmed the penalty amounting to INR 190 crores for illegal quarrying activities in Badlapur. The order marks a significant step toward enforcing environmental accountability and deterring ecological damage caused by unlawful mining practices.

ACHIEVEMENTS



Following intervention by Vanashakti, over 50 acres of mangrove forest in Kegaon, Uran have been restored after the area was illegally reclaimed through dumping of debris. The action led to the removal of dumped material and revival of the mangrove habitat, helping restore an important coastal ecosystem and strengthening protection of biodiversity along the region's shoreline.



Protection of Parsik Hills from Illegal Quarrying

NGT directed the Maharashtra Directorate of Geology and Mining to conduct a comprehensive drone survey of the entire Parsik Hills mining zone to assess the actual extent of quarrying. Rejecting CIDCO's earlier limited mapping exercise, the NGT emphasized the need for a complete and transparent assessment in consultation with the Forest Department. This order strengthens regulatory accountability and is an important step toward protecting the ecologically significant Parsik hill ecosystem.

Media coverage of our impactful environmental campaigns

लोकसत्ता

सावंतवाडी, दोडामार्गची २५ गावे 'इकोसेन्सिटिव्ह'

लोकसत्ता वार्ताहर

सावंतवाडी : केंद्रीय पर्यावरण व जलवायु परिषदेने मंडळाने उच्च न्यायालयाच्या अधिकाऱ्यांना सावंतवाडी आणि दोडामार्ग तालुक्यातील एकूण २५ गावे पर्यावरणदृष्ट्या संवेदनशील म्हणून घोषित केली आहेत. अलिकडेच याकरीत अर्जांमधून जारी करण्यात आली असून त्यामुळे तेथील प्रस्तावित खाण प्रकल्प आणि धोकेनाश झाले आहेत. रमेश, या गावांमध्ये आजू कोणताही प्रदूषणकारी उद्योग आणि धोकेनाश (टाउन्शिप) उघाडला गेला नाही.

केंद्र सरकारने सिंधुदुर्ग जिल्ह्यातील ही गावे पर्यावरणदृष्ट्या संवेदनशील म्हणून जाहीर केल्यामुळे आता येथे कोणतेही प्रदूषणकारी प्रकल्प उभे करता येणार नाहीत.

आणि संदीप सावंत यांनी इतरही पत्रकारांशी संवाद साधत याबाबत माहिती दिली. याबाबत, आवाज फाउंडेशन, स्टेशन दवानेर आणि पर्यावरणप्रेमी डॉ. जयदेव परळकर



संरक्षित गावे

सावंतवाडी : कुकळदे, अरुळिदे, वाडवे, माळगाव, भाळगाव, लोळेरी, सारंगळे, धर्मिल, ओटवणे, कोवरी, धारपी, खेरी, केवरी, कण्णवडे, पुणेरी

दोडामार्ग : कुकळ, पणवुळी, लोळवडे, कोळेरी, कोळेकर, वरुळवडे, कोळेरी, उगळे

परिणाम काय ?

- वृक्षतोड व पर्यावरण नुकसान होई.
- खनिज आणि प्रदूषणकारी प्रकल्प याबाबत
- मोठ्या प्रमाणात प्रकल्प राबत
- रक्षक धरे, बांधणे आणि छोटे प्रकल्प प्रकल्प राबत
- इतर प्रकल्पांवर निर्बंध राबत

घोटी होई. याबाबत प्रमाणपत्र आणि वन्यजीवांचा अभ्यास लक्षात घेऊन हा बाब कायचे आवश्यक असल्याने २०१० पासून वनसन्धि

फाउंडेशन आणि आवाज फाउंडेशन उच्च न्यायालयात याचिका केली होती. न्यायालयाच्या अधिकाऱ्यांनी २२ एप्रिल रोजी केंद्राचे कायदा अर्जांमधून जारी केली. यामुळे आता केंद्राचे वेळीस वानू अयलेला खाण प्रकल्प पुढील पाच वर्षात बंद करावा लागणार आहे. प्रस्तावित खनिज खाण पर्यावरण होकार आहे. या भागात होत असलेल्या इतर, न्यायानुसार कितल्याशा शासनात विकास प्रकल्प घेईल, असे संदीप सावंत यांनी स्पष्ट केले. अधिसूचनेनुसार ६० दिवसांत याचिका आलेला मात मांडू राहतील, परंतु उच्च न्यायालयाच्या पठिण्या असल्याने या अधिसूचनेला अडथळा देणे शक्य होणार नाही.

लोकसत्ता

'लोकसत्ता लोकसंवाद' मध्ये पर्यावरणवादी कार्यकर्त्यांची मताप्राप्तिदेखर टीका ठाण्याचा बिहार...



'लोकसत्ता लोकसंवाद' कार्यक्रमात रवींद्र जोशी व स्टॅलिन डी.

लोकसत्ता प्रतिनिधी

ठाणे : साह्यातील वायुमल्ल, हाजारे भुवर्षी होणारी कायदा, अधिर्षय विकास प्रकल्प, बांधकामे, लताबांधी झालेले दुष्काळी, राजकारणाबांधी कार्यकर्त्यांनी संस्था यामुळे ठाण्याचा प्रवास विचारण्या दिने हेत आहे. ठाणे महापालिका पर्यावरणवादात निर्दोषी आणि वेळोवेळी असल्याचे परखड मात 'वनशक्ती' संस्थेचे संघालक स्टॅलिन डी. आणि वेक्टर एन्वायरॉन्मेंट सोल्युशन्सचे प्रमुख रवींद्र जोशी यांनी वक्तव्य केले.

स्थानिक स्वातंत्र्य संस्थांचा विचारप्रवासात 'सावंतवाडी' संस्थेचे संघालक स्टॅलिन डी. आणि वेक्टर एन्वायरॉन्मेंट सोल्युशन्सचे प्रमुख रवींद्र जोशी यांनी वक्तव्य केले.

पुढील पुढील निर्वादीतील मागे मात वेळोवेळी आहे. त्यामुळे ठाणेमध्ये वायुमल्ल विचारप्रवासात 'सावंतवाडी' संस्थेचे संघालक स्टॅलिन डी. आणि वेक्टर एन्वायरॉन्मेंट सोल्युशन्सचे प्रमुख रवींद्र जोशी यांनी वक्तव्य केले.

'Debris dumping destroyed 160 acres of mangroves in Raigad, Thane & Palghar'

Vijay.Singh@timesofindia.com

Navi Mumbai: In a detailed study using satellite imagery and other technical support, environmentalist D Stalin, who is also a member of the Bombay high court-appointed state wetlands committee, has alleged that 160 acres of mangroves have been destroyed due to debris dumping and other illegal means in the three districts of Raigad, Thane and Palghar.

Green activists have requested that the state govt stop taking mangroves and wetlands lightly. They alleged, for instance, that more than 4 acres of a partial coastal regulatory zone (CRZ) area near the NMCC head office in Belapur had been earlier converted into a cricket ground, and now the civic body plans to set up a super-specialty hospital on this site and the additional adjoining space. While cricket enthusiasts are also protes-



Mangroves destruction at Uran, Raigad district

ting, environmentalists said more CRZ areas in the three districts are vulnerable in this manner.

Stalin, who heads NGO Vanshakshi, said, "It is shocking that mangroves on 160 acres have been destroyed in the three districts. The actual damage to the environment is

gically important areas and prosecute those responsible."

The satellite mapping and study of mangroves was conducted by Mahapreiti ERAF and Geoinfo Services. Palghar lost the maximum mangroves spread over 78.99 acres, followed by Raigad, where mangroves on a 53.71 acre area were destroyed and encroached upon. In Thane district, 28.26 acres of mangroves land was similarly encroached upon.

Environmentalist Nandakumar Pawar, president of the Maharashtra Small Scale Traditional Fish Workers Union and head of Sagarsakhi Coastal Projects, said, "The destruction of the green coastal areas is continuing, but the govt is not doing much. This can lead to a serious ecological hazard in the coming years. Just recently, massive mangrove trees were being destroyed at Dadarpada in the Pen taluka of Raigad,

while the green coast of Panje in Uran taluka is also being damaged through debris dumping."

The greens have reiterated that if the destruction of mangroves continues, there can be massive flooding and other disastrous events that can severely affect humans.

Stalin said, "The satellite study is very detailed and clearly shows (in red colour) how various mangroves have been encroached upon illegally. It is said that the CRZ area just behind the NMCC head office in Belapur has also been made into a ground, where the authorities now plan to build a super-specialty hospital."

TOI had earlier spoken to NMCC commissioner Kailas Shinde about the ground where a super-specialty hospital is being planned. Shinde had said this matter was currently in court due to litigation among the parties, including cricket match organisers.

पुण्य नगरी

'वनशक्ती'चा निसर्गाशी जोडणारा अनुभवात्मक उपक्रम

वाडा : वनशक्ती संस्थेमार्फत १६ ते २० मेदरम्यान ७ ते १५ वयोगटातील मुलांसाठी पाच दिवसीय उन्हाळी शिबिराचे आयोजन करण्यात आले. शिबिरात एकूण ४२ विद्यार्थ्यांनी सहभाग घेतला. विद्यार्थ्यांसह पालकांनीही या उपक्रमाला उत्स्फूर्त प्रतिसाद दिला. निसर्गाच्या सान्निध्यात अनुभवातून शिकण्याची संधी

मिळावी, हे शिबिराचे मुख्य उद्दिष्ट होते. शिबिरात मुलांनी भाजीपाला शेंतीचे प्रत्यक्ष प्रशिक्षण घेतले. नैसर्गिक साहित्याचा वापर करून हस्तकला तयार करणे, सकाळी ध्यानधारणा करणे व पक्षीनाद निरीक्षण, नदी परिसंस्थेचा अभ्यास, जलशुद्धीकरणाच्या नैसर्गिक पद्धती, वनस्पती व कीटक निरीक्षण, स्थानिक रोपवाटिकेला

भेट देणे असे उपक्रम राबवले गेले. रोपवाटिकेत कंपोस्ट निर्मिती, रोपांची लागवड व कुडी सजावटीचे प्रात्यक्षिकही करण्यात आले. शिबिराच्या चौथ्या दिवशी विद्यार्थ्यांना डोंगर व तलाव परिसरात निसर्ग भ्रमंती घडवण्यात आली. या भ्रमंतीदरम्यान विद्यार्थ्यांनी साग, पळस, कोशिंबे, आळवे यांसारख्या झाडांचे निरीक्षण केले. कोकीळ,

किंगफिशर, बुलबुल व कोतवाल यांसारख्या पक्ष्यांचे आवाज ओळखण्याचा प्रयत्न केला. जलस्रोतांचे महत्त्व समजून घेत, त्यांनी गोळा केलेल्या बियांपासून डोंगरावर वृक्षारोपणी केले. शिबिराच्या अंतिम दिवशी शंख, शिंपले, दगडांवर चित्रकला आदी हस्तकला सत्र आयोजित करण्यात आले.

'न्यायपरिक्षेचा सहभाग महत्वाचा'

भारतीय कायदातून वृक्षारोपणाचा एकही कायदा नाही. वृक्षतोड कोणत्याही कायदा अन्वयाबाहेर आहे. परंतु, सरकार संवेदन ते न्यायपरिक्षेकरीत केले. पर्यावरणवादी संस्था कडकपणे हे, कायदाही अन्वयाबाहेर नाही असे हे न्यायपरिक्षेकरीत केले आहे. अन्वयात एका प्रकरणातले सर्वोच्च न्यायालयात खंडपीठाला विचारले जावे घेण्यात आले, असे काही होत नाही. केवळ राजकारणी व्यक्तींचे हे हेतू उघडले नाही. न्यायपरिक्षेकरीत सहभाग महत्वाचा आहे. न्यायपरिक्षेकरीत न्यायपरिक्षेकरीत विचारले जावे घेण्यात आले, असे काही होत नाही. केवळ राजकारणी व्यक्तींचे हे हेतू उघडले नाही. न्यायपरिक्षेकरीत सहभाग महत्वाचा आहे.

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May 21, 2025 Page No. 04

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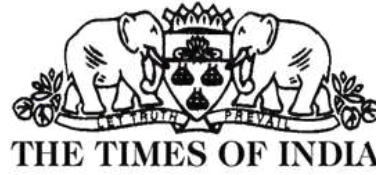
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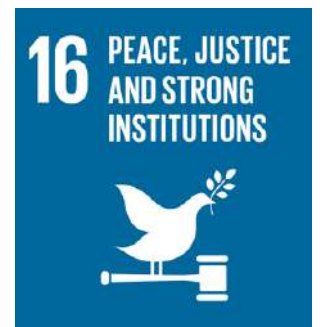
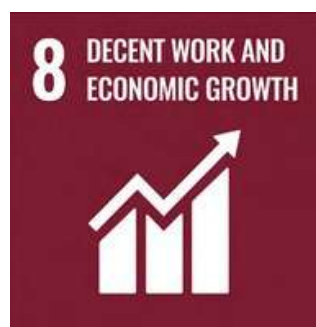


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