



# VANASHAKTI

## ANNUAL REPORT

### 2022-23

**CONSERVING OUR PLANET**

A Year of Environmental Conservation Efforts



# About Vanashakti

- Mumbai-based non-profit environmental NGO
- Our thrust areas are forest, mangrove, and wetland protection, environmental education for schools and communities in urban and rural community capacity building through green theatre, green livelihoods or forest-based communities, and scientific investigation into environmental degradation and afforestation.
- We started with the belief that India can only progress if its people are nurtured and its resources are used sustainably.



# Our Conviction



As the custodians of this valuable planet, we are entrusted to utilize the resources sustainably and pass them on to future generations with its magnificence and principles unspoiled.



# Our Reach Through Outreach

**31, 623+**

number of souls and minds we have connect this year

**1 lakh+**

audiences reached indirectly



Which includes:

- **20,110+** Citizens
- **205+** Teachers
- **11,308+** Students

*The natural world harbours an immense diversity of life, and its aesthetic splendour is unmatched. We are responsible for taking all necessary measures to safeguard and conserve it for posterity.*

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Home > Mumbai > Mumbai News > Article > Sanjay Gandhi National Park trees burnt land grabbed says activist

# Sanjay Gandhi National Park trees burnt, land grabbed, says activist

Updated on: 12 January, 2022 08:05 AM IST | Mumbai  
Ranjeet Jadhav | ranjeet.jadhav@mid-day.com

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Stalin D of NGO Vanashakti urges top officials and Centre to take urgent steps, says a road has also been created on forest land



The activist says this road has been illegally built inside the park



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## Lab tests show high pollution levels around effluent leak in flamingo sanctuary

By Prayag Arora-Desai

Jun 10, 2022 04:57 PM IST

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The pipeline in question has been operational since 2021 and was built to replace a 25-year-old channel to carry effluents from a common treatment plant in Mahape into the deep sea, beyond the limit of Thane Creek



## THE FREE PRESS JOURNAL

e-Paper

HOME MUMBAI NEWS INDIA BUSINESS ENTERTAINMENT SPORTS VIRAL LIFESTYLE EDUCATION VIDEOS BRANDSUTRA

# Mumbai NGO in their plea filed before Bombay HC: Only forest department can maintain Aarey roads

The petition comes in the wake of a resident of Royal Palms, Binod Agarwal, in the area in suburban G approaching the HC seeking that the internal roads be handed over to the BMC for maintenance.

Urvi Mahajani | Updated: Thursday, January 05, 2023, 09:34 AM IST

f t w in



Bombay High Court | Representative Image

5G

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### RECENT STORIES

Kolhapur native, IIT Madras student lamented 'intense competition' days before suicide, say friends

Mumbai: Another blow to NMIMS as distressed parents knock Edu

## SC asks Centre why three pesticides banned in India, seeks placing of two reports

PTI • Last Updated: Mar 27, 2023, 09:27 PM IST

### Synopsis

"The Union government shall place on the record the final report of the Dr SK Khurana Sub-Committee (referred to in paragraph 10 of the status report) and the report dated September 6, 2022 of the committee chaired by Dr TP Rajendran (referred to in paragraph 11 of the status report)," the court said.



The [Supreme Court](#) asked the Centre on Monday to place two reports on the use of harmful chemicals and pesticides in India before it and questioned it on why only three pesticides have so far been banned in the country. A bench comprising Chief Justice DY Chandrachud and Justices [PS Narasimha](#) and JB Pardiwala said

the public interest litigation (PIL) petitioners "may have some agenda", but the Centre should satisfy it as to why only three pesticides have so far been banned in the country.

## Nature Vs Nurture: Join These Organisations In Their Fight To Save Aarey



Save Aarey (L) indiatimes.in; dnaindia.com (R)

Ava Gilder

Published on : 1 Aug, 2022, 2:22 pm • 3 min read

Tucked away in Mumbai's Goregaon suburb, Aarey is spread over 1300 hectares near the Sanjay Gandhi National Park (SGNP). Also called the Aarey Milk Colony, it is home to several types of flora and fauna, as well as a home for Adivasis still residing within the area. Over the years a concrete jungle has exploded around the forest as Mumbai has become increasingly more metropolitan, leaving Aarey one of the last pockets of lush greenery in a progressively polluted city. Now we find the citizens of Mumbai and the surrounding areas fighting for the preservation of the forest, to save it from reaching a sordid end after almost 73 years of being Mumbai's green lung.

THIS STORY IS FROM AUGUST 9, 2022

### Navi Mumbai: Illegal sand mining hits Taloja and Belapur creeks, complaints lodged

VIDAY SINGH / TNN / Aug 9, 2022, 21:54 IST

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#### YOU'RE READING



Navi Mumbai: Illegal sand mining hits Taloja and Belapur creeks, complaints...



Mumbai-Goa highway shut for 4 hours over flood threat



Maharashtra: Parvel murder case solved, three arrested



Vanashakti NGO has also mentioned in his complaint how the mangroves lining the Taloja creek are getting destroyed.

NAVI MUMBAI: Two serious complaints about illegal sand mining at Taloja creek and Belapur creek have been sent to all the relevant authorities in Raigad district by activists.



## कार्यशाळा

ठाणे : सावरकरनगर भागातील श्रीराम विद्या मंदिर शाळेत वनशक्ती या पर्यावरणप्रेमी संस्थेच्या वतीने विनाशुल्क नैसर्गिक रंगाची कार्यशाळा गुरुवारी पार पडली. वनशक्तीच्या प्रकल्प अधिकारी चित्रा म्हस्के यांनी या कार्यशाळेत विद्यार्थ्यांना मार्गदर्शन केले तसेच पालेभाज्या, फळे, फुले यांपासून नैसर्गिक रंग कसा तयार करावा याचे प्रात्यक्षिक दाखविले.



# Round the Year 2022-23

- 20 Mission Clean Coast: Mangroves, Beaches, and Lake Clean-up Drives
- 18.4 tons. of marine waste collected
- 200 kg. of E-waste and plastic waste collected
- 3721 Saplings planted
- 17 Trails and Nature interpretation walks conducted
- 590 Workshops and Environmental Awareness sessions conducted
- 22 Environmental Days celebrated
- 2564 Street plays on Environmental Education and Awareness





# 3 Pillars



## Conserve

- Street plays
- Nature trails
- Plantation
- Butterfly Garden

## Protect

- Litigation/PIL
- E-waste Collection Drive
- Clean-Ups
- Waste Management through Nets
- Monitoring Visits

## Nurture

- Awareness sessions
- Celebration of Environmental Days
- Green Teacher Award
- Wall Paintings





# Education & Awareness - Rural

- Learners reached: **4440**
- Institutions collaborated with **12**
- Workshops and Environmental Awareness sessions conducted: **461**

## Out of which:

- Outdoor Activities/Workshops: **331**
- Master Classes: **130**

Languages: **Hindi & Marathi**



# Education & Awareness - Urban



- Learners reached: **6868**
- Institutions collaborated with **28**
- Workshops and Environmental Awareness sessions conducted: **129**



## Out of which:

- Lectures and Talks: **63**
- Workshops: **21**
- Documentary / Film Screening: **25**
- Competitions: **20**

Languages: **English, Hindi, Marathi & Urdu**







# Green Teacher Awards

24

182

Schools collaborated

Teachers participated

Schools from Thane, Mumbai and Navi-Mumbai



It is an initiative to educate the next generation by strengthening teachers' environmental protection and conservation awareness. The programme aims to recognise knowledgeable and enthusiastic teachers towards environment conservation.



# The Living Theatricals

- 17 Institutions reached out of which 12 were rural and 5 were urban
- 30 Villages and many hamlets
- 2564 Total shows conducted in Wada (2555) and Mumbai (9)





# Nature Trails and Walks

17

Trails were conducted

400+

Participants from schools and colleges

## Trails were conducted at:

- Coastal and Marine Biodiversity Centre, Airoli
- Bhandup Pumping Station, Bhandup
- Chatrpati Rajrshi Shahu Maharaj School, Rabale





# Taking Environmental Days to the Community

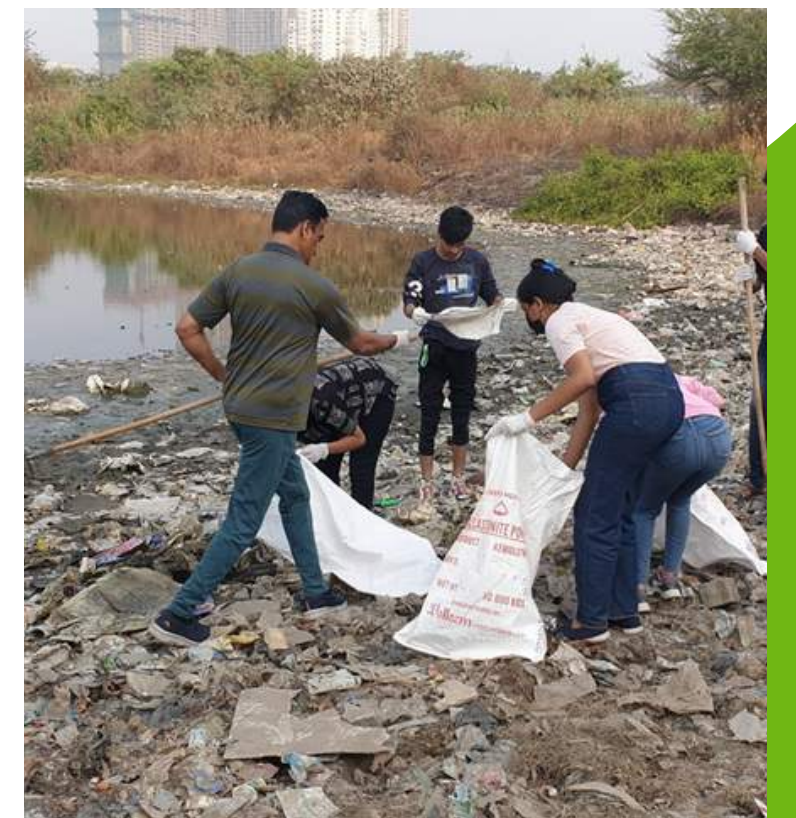
- World Wetland Day
- World Environment Day
- Earth Day
- Mangrove Action Day
- Lions Day
- International Day of Action for Rivers
- International Day of Forests
- National Wildlife Week
- World Wildlife Day
- World Rivers Day
- World Soil Day
- Science Day



# Outreach - Clean-up Drives

10.9 tons of solid waste was collected during these drives.

- 4 Beach Clean-up drives at Dadar Chowpathy
- 15 Mangrove Clean-up drives in Thane Creek Flamingo Bird Sanctuary and Seawoods, Navi Mumbai
- 1 Lake Clean-up drive at Wadala

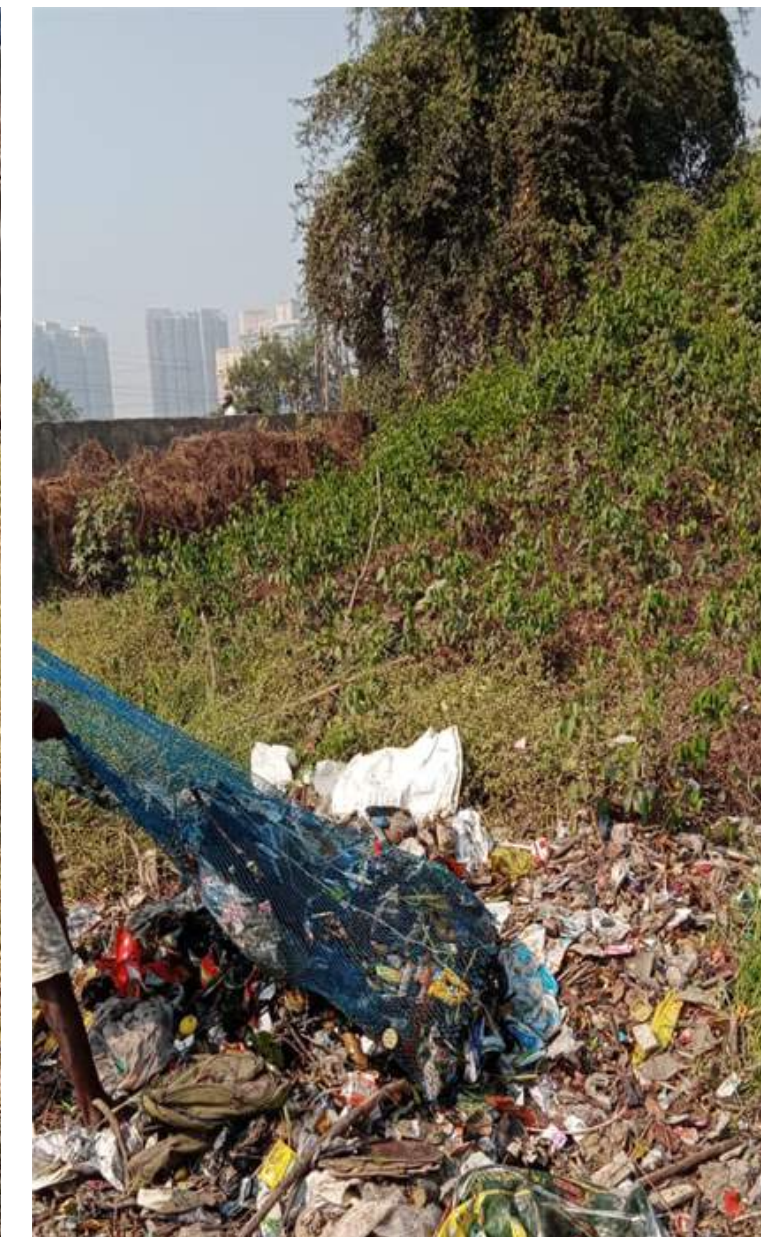




# OUTREACH CLEAN-UP DRIVES



# Collection of Solid Waste through the placement of Nets at stormwater drain outfalls



**7.5 tons of solid waste was collected through the net within 2 months**

Installation of nets at stormwater outfalls could prevent the entry of solid waste into the coastal ecosystems and therefore reduce the burden on biodiversity.

*A single-point collection is much better than a clean-up carried out at multiple points.*



# Project Clean River



5

Rivers

4

School Sessions

12

Monitoring Visits

Rivers : Ulhas, Waldhuni, Gomati, Indrayani and Kamwari



# E-Waste & Plastic Waste Collection Drive

A Campaign of 10 days:  
Collection of -

- 45 kg E-waste
- 155 kg Plastic waste
- 153 Societies reached




WHAT TO DO WITH SO MUCH WASTE?

We are here with the Solution

**FUTURE with NATURE**

E-waste and Plastic Waste Collection Drive

Initiative by

**JP INFRA**

Things2do vanashakti Mira-Bhaunder RISING An initiative by JP INFRA

When? And Where?

11 <sup>th</sup> June : GCC Club and Vinay Nagar
12 <sup>th</sup> June : Delta Park and Jangid Complex
18 <sup>th</sup> June : Poonam Estate Cluster and Bhaktivedanta Hospital
19 <sup>th</sup> June : RBK School and VinaRamdev Park
25 <sup>th</sup> June : Beverly Park Road and St. Joseph Church
26 <sup>th</sup> June : Rassaz Multiplex and Maxus Mall

Contact No: 7208480724/7977670832

"Electronic waste is not just a burden on the environment, it is a burden on our society and economy."

JEAN-MICHEL COUSTEAU



# Plantation with Purpose

A source of nutrition and livelihood

- 5721 Saplings of fruiting trees (grafted) were planted and distributed
- 5 Drives Conducted
- 124 Beneficiary families









# Plantation with Purpose



# Butterfly Garden

Enhancing the aesthetics and recreational space in BPS and harbouring insect diversity.



Bhandup Pumping Station section of Thane Creek Flamingo Bird Sanctuary.



# Wall Painting

A tool for Environmental Awareness

**4166 sq ft** Area of walls and boards painted  
at Bhandup Railway Station

Theme: Wetlands of Thane Creek, Flamingo Bird Sanctuary










# Litigations



- **IA(L) No. 202 of 2023 in WP No. 3179 of 2022** – Vanashakti filed an IA in a writ petition concerning the unlawful manner in which the concretization of roads inside Aarey is being done that will affect the wildlife inside the forest and Eco-Sensitive Zone area and informed the court about the necessity of a prior informed permission from the Forest Department and ESZ Monitoring Committee, respectively, to which the HC passed an order dated 17.03.2023 directing that approval from various departments will be necessary before any repair commences.
  - **Challenge to CRZ Notification, 2019 before NGT (OA No. 106 of 2022)** – By an order dated 01.12.2022, NGT admitted an application filed by Vanashakti challenging the constitutional validity of CRZ Notification, 2019.
  - **Shutting of illegal Brick Kilns and change in technology in brick kilns (OA No. 92 of 2018)** - By order dated 18.04.2022, NGT directed that all brick kilns that fall within the Eco Sensitive Zone of Tungreshwar wildlife Sanctuary and Tansa River Valley are required to be shut down and outside such ESZ and in the entire state of Maharashtra, only those brick kilns will be allowed which follow the new technology and the minimum requirements siting norms and air quality standards as set out in the new notification of MoEF dated 22.02.22
  - **Closure of Diva Dumping Ground (OA No. 26 of 2023)** – By an order dated 15.03.2023, NGT has admitted the petition of Vanashakti seeking closure of Diva Dumping Ground in Mumbra Creek, which also seeks restoration of the site to its original position and seeking imposition of appropriate environmental costs on TMC. NGT has sought a response from TMC and other enforcement agencies on the issue.
- 

- **Illegal construction in the hilly terrain and forests lands of Ganeshpuri (OA No. 14 of 2023)** – By an order dated 13.02.2023, the NGT has admitted the petition of Vanashakti seeking complete halt and removal of illegal construction being carried out in the hilly terrain and forests lands of Ganeshpuri and had further formed a committee headed by CCF, Thane to provide a factual status report on such a violation.
- **Direction to formulate a final policy of regulating inland aquaculture in the entire country (Execution Application No. 12 of 2022 in OA No. 80 of 2022)** – By a judgment dated 27.02.2023, the NGT has directed that aquaculture required to be regulated under the EIA Notification, 2006 and is to be brought under the consent regime of SPCB's and CPCB so that the environment of lakes and ponds is protected as such inland water bodies are sources of drinking and potable water.
- **Removal of construction made for jogging and cycling track inside the water areas and catchment area of Powai Lake (PIL 5111 of 2022)** – By a judgment dated 06.05.2022, the Bombay High Court directed the removal of the entire construction made inside the water body and its catchment area and directed complete restoration of Powai Lake to its original position.
- **Removal of sewage pollution inside Powai Lake (OA No. 68 of 2021)** – By a judgment dated 12.01.2022, the NGT had directed that the entire sewage pollution inside Powai Lake requires to be immediately dealt with and constituted a committee of experts to formulate a plan that the Municipal Corporation is required to implement for preventing any discharge of sewage pollution in Powai Lake so that its completely pristine once again.
- **Transfer of mangroves from government agencies to the Forest Department (PIL No. 14 of 2021)** - By an order dated 31.01.2022, the HC has directed all government agencies to expeditiously transfer all mangrove areas to the Forest Department so that complete protection is provided to the last remaining mangrove forests of Maharashtra.

# Achievements



Installation of **Nets at stormwater drains outfall** to collect Solid waste. Collected 7.5 tons of waste in 2 months.



**Closure of Diva Dumping Ground** present on the ecologically important Desai Creek-Part of Ulhas River Estuary





# Achievements



Declaration of Thane Creek Flamingo Bird Sanctuary as **Ramsar Site** (wetland site designated to be of international importance)



Court ordered **regulation of inland aquaculture** and the entire industry to be within the purview of the environmental regime, such as the **EIA Notification** and consent regime under the **Water Act**.





# Project Partners



Nature provides a free lunch, but only if we control our appetites.

William Ruckelshaus



**Mankind needs to:**

- **Conserve**
- **Nurture**
- **Protect**

