



ANNUAL REPORT 2024 - 25

YEAR OF RESTORING THE BLUES AND GREENS



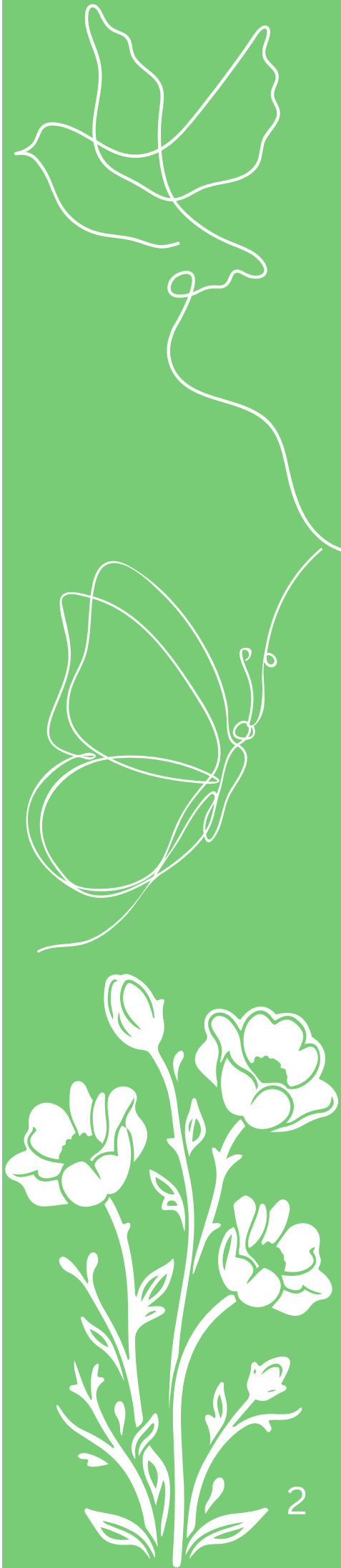
Director's Statement

In a world where even the deniers of Climate change are forced to eat humble pie, little has been done to mitigate the effects of that challenge. A miniscule number of organisations and individuals are working round the clock to protect and conserve what remains of our natural climate reliance mechanism. Vanashakti stands out in our country as an example of how conservation needs to be approached. Education, Awareness, Ground interventions, restoration of degraded ecosystems, protection of wildlife corridors, advocacy and litigation are all used to slow down if not halt all kinds of ongoing or impending environmental degradation. From ensuring participation of citizens in ground level conservation, to educating schools and colleges in aspects of conservation, getting wetlands recognized and protected, to securing wildlife corridors in the Western Ghats notified as Ecologically Sensitive Areas, to stopping operations of illegal garbage dumping sites, to tackling river pollution, we have come a long way. The amendments to the Environment Protection Act which would have wrecked havoc on our ecosystems has been checked thanks to the intervention by the Highest court of the land, the Hon'ble supreme court while hearing petitions filed by us. This journey has not been easy. A detailed analysis of the work done by the small team of Vanashakti in Maharashtra and in Uttar Pradesh will clearly show the extent of efforts and hard work that was put in by the team which tirelessly worked to achieve the goals.

All this could never have been possible without the support of those who believed in us and supported us. Every effort needs financial resources which are hard to come by. The only thing that stands between us and creating a much larger impact in favour of conservation is the financial backing that is needed. Having said that, it is my privilege to present this annual report of the work done by the Vanashakti team in between April 1st 2024 and March 31st 2025. We welcome and await your responses and suggestions on our work. Thanking you on behalf of the Vanashakti team

STALIN DAYANAND

Director





About Us...

Vanashakti, a Mumbai-based non-profit organization, is dedicated to conserving forests, mangroves, rivers, wildlife areas, and wetlands. Our mission includes environmental education for urban and rural kids and communities, green theatre initiatives, supporting sustainable livelihoods for forest-based communities and scientific research to combat environmental degradation. We are involved in advocating for afforestation and environmental protection. Our core belief is that India's growth and prosperity are intertwined with responsible environmental stewardship. We emphasize the importance of preserving natural resources to ensure a sustainable and beautiful Earth for future generations.



Our Presence



Lucknow



Malvan



Mumbai and Palghar

Our Impact

3,64,500+

People reached

5000+

Saplings planted

26+

Tonnes of non-biodegradable waste removed from environment

85+

Hectares of sea bed area cleaned

27,000+

Learners reached



Our Impact



800+

Hectares of mangrove forest protected

33+

Mining sites closed in ecologically sensitive Western ghats

25

Villages declared as Ecologically Sensitive Area (ESA) in Sindhudurg

14+

Dumping site in CRZ areas closed

1000+

RTI filled





Environmental Awareness Sessions and Workshops

- **408** Environmental awareness sessions including
 - 283** Lectures and master classes
 - 70** Outdoor activities
 - 55** Documentary screenings and environmental competitions.
- **107** Workshops



**Learners reached :
27,000+**

**Institutions collaborated :
90**

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



THE LIVING THEATRICALS

The Living Theatrical Group a passionate collective using street plays and interactive performances to spread environmental awareness across communities. Through engaging storytelling and live drama, the group educates audiences on vital issues like deforestation, climate change, and biodiversity conservation. Their impactful performances especially resonate with rural and tribal populations, fostering local stewardship for nature. By blending art with advocacy, the Green Theatrical Group inspires action for a sustainable future.

75

Street plays conducted

5,200

Total audience reached

28

Villages and Hamlets reached

25,400+

Reach through social media





GREEN TEACHER AWARD 2024-25

INSPIRING EDUCATORS TO ENGAGE IN ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

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18

Number of Schools Engaged

275

Total Teachers Reached





Nature Trails and Walks

Total Nature Trails Conducted - **55**

Open-for-All Trails - **10**

Participants Reached - **270+**

Trails Organized for Schools and Colleges - **45**

Participants Reached - **3600+**



TAKING ENVIRONMENTAL DAYS TO THE COMMUNITY

Celebrating environmental days helps fosters collective awareness and responsibility towards nature. It creates a platform for dialogue, education, and action on pressing environmental issues. These events help us strengthen community bonds and inspire collaborative efforts to protect local ecosystems. Most importantly, such celebrations cultivate a 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 Otter Day
- World Soil Day
- World Coconut Day
- World Environment Day
- World Sea Turtle Day
- World Chimpanzee 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 Animal Welfare Day
- World Habitat Day
- World Migratory Bird Day
- International Earth Day



People reached





OUTREACH - CLEAN-UP DRIVES

45

Drives Conducted

26

Tonnes of waste Collected

3150+

People involved

38370+

People reached through
social media



Preserving Coastal Biodiversity in Malvan, Sindhudurg

India's first large scale underwater marine debris cleanup program



08 Marine debris clean-up drive

2750 kgs of marine debris including ghost nets and plastic waste recovered

40268+ People reached including social media reach



Area Cleaned :
Approximately 85.99 hectares





Connecting with Coastal Communities - Sagarshakti

Sagarshakti, a coastal conservation initiative by Vanashakti, works towards addressing the challenges faced by fisherfolk while protecting ecologically important habitats like mangroves, mudflats, fishing areas and tidal pools—critical sources of livelihood for coastal communities. The project actively involves local fishers in conservation efforts, conducts regular ecological monitoring and cleanup drives, and works to safeguard coastal ecosystems. Sagarshakti also engages in legal advocacy to defend the rights of traditional fishing communities and ensure sustainable use of marine resources.

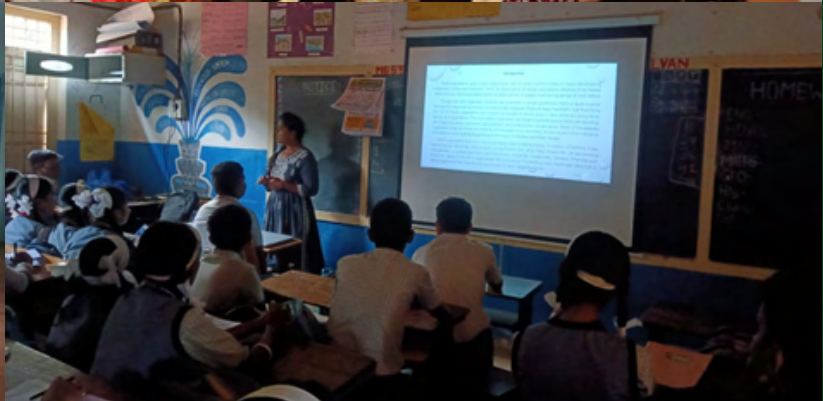




OUTREACH - SINDHUDURG

Marine Conservation Initiatives

This year, Vanashakti established its Malvan office, strengthening our presence in the Konkan region. The Malvan wing continues to play a vital role in conserving the rich biodiversity of the Western Ghats and coastline. Key activities include environmental awareness sessions, wildlife and ecology workshops, nature trails, and community-led coastal cleanups that actively involve students and local residents.





LUCKNOW CHAPTER

Lucknow wing of Vanashakti headed by Dr. Uma Shanker Singh, IFS has been actively promoting environmental conservation and education in Uttar Pradesh. Their initiatives in the region encompass urban greening, community outreach, and educational programs aimed at fostering environmental awareness. Vanashakti's efforts in Lucknow reflect a commitment to environmental stewardship through education, community participation, and sustainable practice.





PROJECT CLEAN RIVERS

Project Clean River by Vanashakti is a focused initiative aimed at monitoring and restoring the health of rivers such as the Ulhas, Waldhuni, Kamvari, Kasardi, Gomati, and Kukrail. Under this project, we regularly conduct pollution assessments to identify sources of contamination and advocate for corrective actions. We have managed to identify illegal discharge by MIDC and textile units into these rivers.

Monitoring visits : 35





Nourishing Lives and Livelihoods Through Purposeful Planting

Number of fruiting saplings planted:

5000+

Number of hamlets reached:

07

Number of beneficiary families :

220



Legal Interventions

- WP (Civil) 166/2025: Supreme Court stayed a govt. order that removed the need for environmental clearance for big construction projects (like schools/hostels), which could harm eco-sensitive areas.
- WP (Civil) 1394/2023: Supreme Court stopped the govt. from giving post-approval environmental clearances to illegal projects, preventing backdoor regularization.
- Civil Appeal 10582/2017: Ulhasnagar Municipal Corp. was pulled up by the Supreme Court for discharging sewage into Ulhas and Waldhuni rivers. A Joint Committee was formed for further action and monitoring.
- SLP 14933/2019: Supreme Court ordered that no trees be cut in Aarey without its permission, strengthening the case to declare Aarey as a protected forest.
- WP 302/2020: Supreme Court directed Bombay HC to monitor protection of Maharashtra's RAMSAR wetlands like Thane Creek, Lonar Lake, and Nandur Madhameshwar.
- PIL 07/2023: Bombay HC cancelled govt. orders allowing post-facto CRZ clearances, upholding the rule that prior approval is mandatory in CRZ areas.
- PIL 14/2021: Over 8000 ha of mangroves were transferred to the Forest Dept. Court ordered protection, restoration, and action against mangrove destruction. Petitioners allowed to file contempt if rules not followed.
- PIL 198/2014: Bombay HC ordered notification of Sawantwadi-Dodamarg Corridor in Western Ghats as an Eco-Sensitive Area; contempt notice issued for delay.
- OA 13/2025 (Parsik Hill Quarrying): NGT ordered authorities to act against illegal quarrying on 508.9 ha at Parsik Hill, with a compliance deadline.
- OA 172/2024 (Kasheli, Mumbra, Diva Dumping): NGT formed a committee to inspect illegal dumping in CRZ areas along Ulhas river. Further dumping was banned.
- OA 63/2024 (Anjur-Diva Dumping): NGT ordered cleanup of illegal dumping sites in Anjur-Diva. If landowners don't comply, govt. will act and recover costs.

PROJECT PARTNERS



ALIGNMENT WITH SDGs





• CONSERVE • PROTECT • NURTURE

#Vanashakti #ConservationRedefined

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