

Activity Report (English Translation)

In Ancient Indian Culture, the concept of *Deorai* (Sacred Grove) has been prevalent. By channeling divine reverence to conserve forest wealth, water resources, and wildlife, this idea has strengthened the relationship between human and nature.

With the goal of promoting compassion for living beings, environmental conservation, and rural development, *Deorai Sanstha* began its journey in 2003.

1) Compassion for All Living Beings

To prevent the killing of wild and domestic animals, particularly the cow—regarded as sacred and motherly in Indian culture—Deorai has led awareness campaigns. Collaborating with various organizations and individuals, the Sanstha has rescued thousands of cows and calves from slaughterhouses, later handing them over to responsible caretakers for a nominal fee.

2) Environmental Conservation

Deorai has been actively engaged in the plantation and preservation of indigenous trees through several ongoing projects:

a) Tree Distribution & Urban/Rural Plantation:

Saplings are provided to institutions, schools, hospitals, and temples for planting. Tree plantation is also carried out along roads and in open spaces with protective fencing and water arrangements.

b) "Harit Vaikunth" (Green Heaven) Project:

In village cremation grounds, Deorai organizes plantation of native trees with protective cages in collaboration with villagers. This initiative has been successful in several villages including Kanhe, Jambhul, Vadgaon, Indori, Malwadi, Shelwarwadi, Jambhwadhe, Bedse, Somatane, and Talegaon Dabhade.

c) Tree on Birthdays:

Since 2008-09, on the birthday of individuals involved in social, educational, religious, sports, or environmental causes, Deorai volunteers plant a tree at the person's home or favorite spot with a protective cage, also assigning tree guardianship. Around 900 trees were planted in a year; 850 have grown into full trees due to personal care.

d) Green Pilgrimage Route Project:

Deorai aims to green the entire 240 km route from Dehu to Pandharpur used during the Sant Tukaram Maharaj Palkhi pilgrimage. Work is underway to develop and green resting places on the route, supported by several philanthropic groups including Sabyow Eagle Realtors, Samast Mahajan (Mumbai), Siddhivinayak Group (Pune), and others.

e) Vanashree Benefit Project:

To provide employment to tribal people in remote areas, medicinal and income-generating trees

have been planted. In Mawal taluka (Thorane, Shirde, and Udevadi), hundreds of trees have been planted under this initiative.

3) Rural Development

Water is the key to development. Despite receiving ample rainfall, many remote tribal hamlets suffer from drinking water shortages in summer. Since 2003, Deorai has been revitalizing old ponds to resolve this issue with support from MLA Digambar Bhegade.

In various villages (Thorane, Jambhawali, Kondiwade, Karanjgaon, etc.), old ponds were deepened and widened using equipment and manpower to store sufficient water.

In urban areas like Indori and Shelwarwadi, two dead ponds have also been revived.

On the mountain plateau (3000 feet elevation) from Mauchi Dongarwadi to Kusur, with 14 isolated tribal hamlets and no road or electricity, Deorai raised funds through five performances of the play *Janata Raja* by Babasaheb Purandare in 2005. Along with Rasiklal Manikchand Dhariwal Trust, C.P.M. Jog (Talegaon), and government support, 8 traditional-style water tanks and 6 wells were constructed to serve the tribal communities.

Mawali Farm Pond Concept:

Launched in 2008-09, this involved converting low-lying rice paddies into farm ponds by digging out earth and creating stone-lined embankments. This resulted in water retention that enabled double cropping. 10 such ponds were created with assistance from Santosh Bhegade Patil (Sahyadri Earthmovers).

Employment-Oriented Well Construction:

Wells were constructed in tribal hamlets (Talpewadi, Phansarai, Vanati, Katurki, Kalakarai, etc.) by providing employment to local residents. Philanthropic support was received from Mahindra & Mahindra, Sureshji Bhageria (Bhageria Industries), Omprakash Bubna, Adv. Pankaj Toprani, Dr. Shyam Agarwal, and Ganeshappa Dhore.

When Bhageria and Bubna visited Phansarai and Vanati, they recommended providing educational facilities along with water, offering to fund the initiative. Two school classrooms were later built at Udevadi (Vanati).

2010–2013 Drought Relief in Satara District:

During severe drought in Man and Khatav talukas, Devrai distributed water via tankers and fodder for livestock. Additionally, 20 village ponds were deepened and widened in villages like Pangarkhel, Kulukjai, Gondawale, Pingli, and others with generous support from Prakash Pradhan, Rajkumar Choradia (Pravin Masale, Pune), Diksha Foundation, Samast Mahajan, and other donors.

Slogan:

"Let's plant native trees, protect voiceless creatures, conserve water in abundance, and build a Golden India."

Current Ongoing Project

Restoration of Talegaon Station Lake (40 acres):

This lake, owned by Talegaon Municipal Council, provided drinking water to the town until 1986. Since then, the lake was neglected, becoming polluted with sewage and water hyacinth.

From 2012, Devrai started raising awareness, and by 2016, began direct intervention. Two trenches were dug (2.5 km total) to divert sewage. With support from donors, the lake was cleaned and desilted. Approximately **2 lakh dumpers of silt** have been removed over the past two years, with assistance from MLA Bala Bhegade, multiple companies, municipal council, and the Maharashtra Government's Irrigation Department.

The removed silt was used to fill nearby gullies, improve municipal land, and enrich farmland. Around the lake, a **2.5 km long, 50 ft wide, 10 ft high embankment** has been created, on which **about 2000 native trees** have been planted with protective care.

Humble Appeal

In this monsoon season, we aim to:

- Remove remaining silt
- Complete the embankment with stone pitching
- Strengthen inlet/outlet channels
- Beautify the area

Work will continue with support from municipal funds and public participation. We appeal to everyone to contribute with **time, effort, and resources** to make this noble mission a success.

Contact Details:

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Donations are exempted under section 80G of the Income Tax Act.

PN/CTI-V/TESH/SOG, 94136/60/22/2011-12/3004

Bank Details:

Account No.: 20069179535

Bank of Maharashtra, Talegaon Dabhade (Station) Branch

IFSC Code: MAHB0001158