

# PUNARNIRMAN

Live by making people around you feel happy.



MONTLY NEWSLETTER OF  
PROJECT REVITALIZATION

September  
2023



# Directors Message

It is with great pleasure that we present this edition of the Samarth Bharat Vyaspeeth "project Revitalization". On the occasion of World Environment Day, the issue is planned to reach citizens with a monthly overview of Revitalization projects from June 2023.

This issue of September 2023 is innovative in many ways. Members of Project Revitalization have made great strides in dry waste collection. The effort that started with the idea of eliminating waste through public participation is now growing in real terms. In the month of September new housing societies in all thane city were added to our project.

Various activities were carried out this month for waste picker women. Project Revitalization in collaboration with Team Foundation started lunch for Safai Sevak women. Health check-ups are being done regularly, but efforts are being made to provide balanced diet to Safai Sevak women, which has finally succeeded. In the same month, Mitali Karandikar the coordinator of our project presented information about the "project Revitalization" on Akash Vani FM.

And Coordinator Yogita Gaikwad was sent to Himachal Pradesh for training for National Workshop on Plastics Management. Overall, the month of September was full of various activities. Many Housing Societies had organized awareness programs in their respective societies this month to motivate citizens for waste management. We are happy that "project Revitalization" is now becoming a big people movement.

## Ulhas Karle

Director Samarth Bharat Vyaspeeth.

Thanking you

## Editor's Message

Dear Readers,

It is a boundless honor to be the editor of the newsletter, and delighted to present the fourth edition of the newsletter entitled "Punarnirman" for September 2023.

By Recycling, you can change Tomorrow, Today! This is what we are learning from the ragpicker women of Thane district in Maharashtra, who have been involved in an imaginary initiative by the non-profit Samarth Bharat Vyaspeeth (SBV), which has touched many breathes and changed the way people look at waste

What started as a small initiative to help a few women ragpickers with a skillfulness and alternate employment by the non-profit, has turned into a huge success story of waste management which connects over one lakh households in the community, engages with over thousands of children, employs many women and prevents approximately 20 tons of waste from being dumped daily.

With the TMC support, SBV managed to procure waste from the corporation and employed the ragpicker women for its segregation at a waste management plant deployed at Kopri, Thane east.

The initiative has been possible with the help of the Recycled Earth App, which was created in collaboration with SBV's partner, Barking Deer Entertainment. This allowed the team at SBV to schedule pickup of dry waste from different locations and in turn the Centre was able to expand its services, and currently manages several types of waste segregation and recycling admirably.

In this issue, we will report several projects and events in which SBV members were keenly involved. I would like to acknowledge Sri Bhatu Sawant, and the members of the SBV project team for their constant support throughout the creation of this edition.

**Let this periodical serve as a representation of our possibilities to a more ecological creation.**

**SAVE THINGS OR WASTE, IT'S YOUR CHOICE!**



# Success Story of one Contributor

## 1) Why is this initiative of waste management and recycling undertaken by you?

"We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors, but we borrow it from our children". I read this quote one day and it profoundly impacted me forever. As a new mother I was horrified by the fact that the earth that I grew up on is not the same today and it might be more damaged in the future if our way of living is not mended completely. The fact that the plastic toothbrush, I used as a child might still be lying somewhere in the landfill and polluting the environment made me restless and thus, I started to store all such recyclable products in the hope of recycling them one day. Atharvaveda 12.1.12 says that माता भूमिः पुत्रोऽहं पृथिव्याः i.e. - Earth is my mother and I am her child. As a child of this earth it was time for me to start giving back rather than just taking everything from here

## 2) When and how did you start working on the project revitalization?

We were searching for any organization that recycles dry waste such as plastic items. We were ready to courier the dry waste ourselves if required. One day during our search we came across Samarth Bharat Vyaspeeth (SBV) NGO. They were picking up dry waste from housing societies as part of their "Project Revitalization". This was a pleasant surprise as not many organizations are offering such dry waste pick up. We immediately contacted SBV and started contributing from 13th July 2022

## 3) How did you motivate others to join hands in this initiative?

I informed about SBV's Project Revitalization to my friends Reshma Tambe, Manali Khaire, Pooja Waghmare, Shobha Malathankar, Anvi Deshpande, Ankita Outkar, Dhanashree Marotkar, Rachana Kapoor and Sudha Barick. All of them became initial participants and evangelists for the initiative. We created a whatsapp group and started to spread awareness within other whatsapp groups of our housing society. Each of us tried to motivate people to join the dry waste collection drive by informing them about the harmful effect the dry waste has on our environment.

## 4) What encourages you to continue on this project till date?

The support I have received from initial participants mentioned above has motivated me to continue with this project as well as the drive of spreading awareness about this project. Segregating dry and wet waste has become a subconscious habit for our families and even my 6 year old daughter automatically puts dry waste in a separate bin. One of the biggest



**Mrs. Janhavee Barve & team**  
Resident of Rosa Gardenia, Thane

encouraging factors is the zeal with which SBV staff works and the fact that they are actually recycling the dry waste rather than it ending up in a landfill somewhere. This is truly encouraging as it gives us a sense of fruitful participation in the efforts to save our mother earth.

## 5) What is your message for society and community at large?

Earth is our only home, and we have a duty to protect it. Each one of us can take action at an individual level which when combined can have a huge positive impact on the environment. We can adopt green habits such as saving water, reducing consumption and reusing things instead of buying new whenever possible. The most important habit that we all can adopt is dry waste recycling which has become so much easier now thanks to SBV's Project Revitalization and their pickup service. I urge everyone to reduce, reuse and recycle for a better tomorrow.



# One Good News about ENVIRONMENT

## Eco-friendly leaf tableware

From the benefits of using saturated butter to coconut oil, and tulsi leaves to haldi doodh, the West has been rather slow in realizing the benefits of multiple natural products that have been used in India for centuries.

Leaf Republic, a German firm, came up with a collection of eco-friendly leaf tableware, which have been seen a routine presence at Indian households and social gatherings, especially at religious thoroughfares.

No wonder thus, the noble idea to reduce plastic waste was met with much disrespect and scorn by Twitter users in India. What left them more shocked is the pricing – what is available for a few pennies back home, is being sold at Rs.8.50 per plate, close to Rs 700.

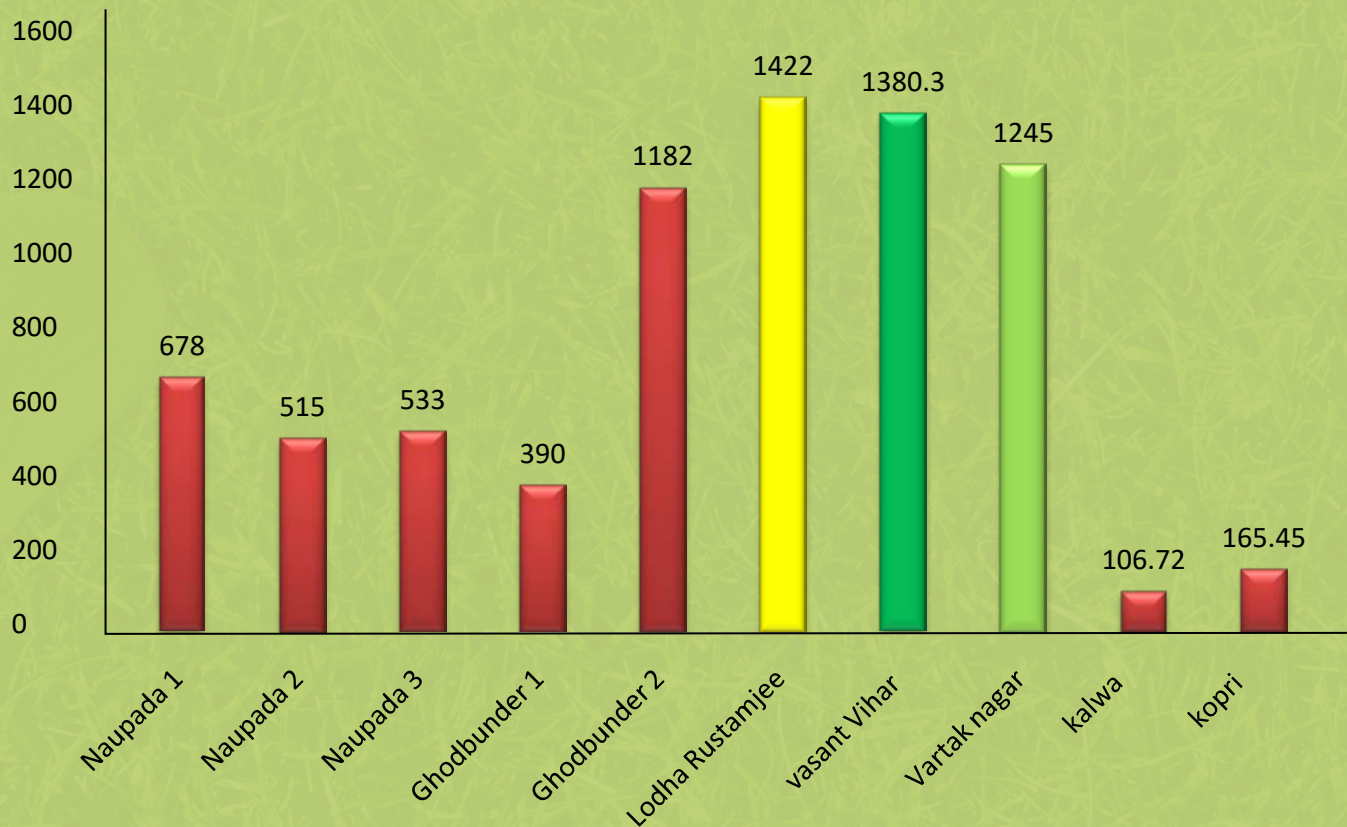
From comments on the awfully exuberant price to imparting a bit of history knowledge on how the British had push-sold fancy bone-china crockery in India, killing the indigenous market, the netizens went on a no-holds-barred rant on social media.

Leaf Republic has a range of bowls, trays, and plates that come with a bio-plastic lid, two layers of leaves, and a waterproof layer of leaf-made paper in the middle. While all of these have been available in India for years, on the bright side, there are hopes that the West will finally adapt to greener, more environment-friendly alternatives.



## Graph of Monthly waste collected

Area wise waste collection summary  
September 2023





# Special Collection of the Month



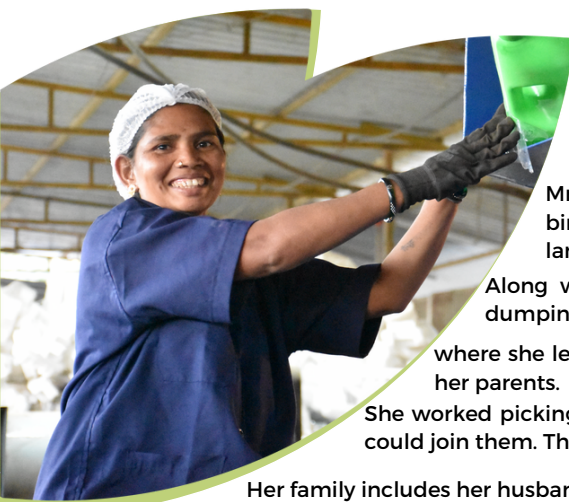
Samarth Bharat Vyaspeeth's waste pickers consistently transform Nirmalya into environmentally friendly composts while maintaining its sanctity during Ganeshotsav.



Special Collection this Month  
Book Donation Drive







# Safai doot story

Mrs. Suni Joma Vasava

Mrs. Suni, 37 years old and her two daughters are currently practising Christians and by birth a Gujarati adivasi. She was born in Nandurbar, Maharashtra with Hindi as her native language. She was born to parents who were rag-pickers.

Along with her parents, she arrived in Mulund dumping ground in 2009. She went to the dumping ground along with her Bua (paternal aunt),

where she learnt the skills of the work. She didn't attend school at all as she was never sent to school by her parents.

She worked picking up trash throughout her childhood. Seeing other kids go to school made her wish she could join them. They were five siblings, three brothers, two sisters. They never had their meals on time.

Her family includes her husband, her five daughters, and her younger brother, who is 19 years old and moved here in

quest of work. In expectation of a son, she had five daughters; nevertheless, she has since undergone sterilisation. She has a married daughter. Formerly, three of her daughters resided in the Maa Niketan hostel. Fifth grader is older daughter. When she was at work, her older daughter took care of the house. Her Bua gave her the inspiration to build her home, which is made of bamboo and plastic sheets. There is an open toilet. Bathroom is a temporary structure. Samarth Bharat Vyaspeeth has supplied the connection for the gas and electricity.

For two years until the birth of her first child, her first marriage was a joyful one. Nevertheless, her husband started drinking and passed away from liver problems 8 years ago. She had to pay between 2000 and 3000 rupees each time he was hospitalised in the Thane civil hospital. She has been handling garbage segregation while working at her current job. She had prior work experience at the Mulund dumping site. She likes her current job; there is no stress. She looks forward to seeing her co-workers and returning together. Most significantly, it aids her in providing for and educating the kids.

To maintain her social standing, she married her brother-in-law seven years back. Her current husband was previously married, and his wife filed for a divorce. His marriage produced a daughter who is married. After the passing of her first husband, she resided with her in-laws. After her brother-in-law's divorce, her in-laws got her married to him as they were concerned that if she married someone outside the family, who would look after the kids? He is compassionate and contributes to household costs. They are able to manage the home together and save nearly 2,000 and 3,000 each month in bank. Her current spouse makes approximately 15,000 every month.

Moreover, Suni is a proud woman who believes that women should work to care for their families despite all obstacles. Despite the fact that her father did not educate her, she takes pride in the fact that she is educating her kids. She carried out independently what both of her parents did jointly. And, never desired a son, she is content with her daughters and believes that daughters are kind.

Occasionally, she buys a modest cake to honour the birthdays of her children and has a lavish Christmas celebration too. She quit using tobacco, gutkha, after attending discourses; her trust in Jesus was confirmed.

She also aspires to acquire a property in Gujarat through her hard work and her husband's support. Seeing people living in high rises makes her wish a similar life for herself and family, and not continue with the job of segregating waste. She feels these people are educated, work well and thus enjoy a lavish lifestyle. She wants her children to study well and have a decent job.

She loves listening to carols when not working. The woman in her loves to dress up in finery. Her determined spirit drives her forward. Samarth Bharat Vyaspeeth has made her live stress-free and active.

## Picture of the Month





# Awareness and other activity

Done by project Revitalisation



**Patel Apartment  
Charai  
Awareness Session**

**Awareness session at  
Oswal Park**



**Awareness session**



**Awareness session  
on Project  
Revaitalization done  
at Dhanashree  
society**



# Yogita Gaikwad

4 Day Workshop at Himachal Pradesh . CFA and Sambhaavnaa Institute offer this workshop to help participants understand the relationship between fossil fuels and plastics. It aims to understand what it takes to make plastics and the impact that it has on both the environment and humans in each stage of its lifespan: from oil exploration, transportation of crude oil, refining, manufacturing of petrochemicals (which are the raw materials for plastics), and the production of plastics.



# Mitali Karandikar

Project Coordinator of Project Revitalization Samarth Bharat Vyaspeeth she spoke on 'Swachata Hi Seva' on the show Saptarangi Saath on Akashvani FM on September 29





# Social Welfare Activity description



Afternoon  
lunch at project  
revaitalization

Daily food  
donation



## World Cotton Day

Breathing new life into cotton fields, one  
thread at a time. Celebrating World Cotton Day  
with our revitalization project!

**Sat, 7 Oct, 2023**

