

PUNARNIRMAN

PROTECT THE FORESTS,



**THEY ARE THE CLIMATE UMBRELLA
OF OUR PLANET.**

APRIL 2025



EDITOR'S MESSAGE

Dear Readers,

It is a perpetual goodness to be the editor of the newsletter, and pleased to present the twenty-first edition of the newsletter entitled "Punarnirman" for the April, 2025

By Reconditioning, you can change the unpleasant upcoming! This is what we are learning from the rag picker women of Thane district in Maharashtra, who have been involved in a make-believe initiative by the non-profit Samarth Bharat Vyaspeeth (SBV), which has touched many lives and changed the view about the waste.

What started as a small initiative to help a few women rag pickers with a capability and alternate employment by the non-profit, has turned into a mammoth success story of waste management which connects over one lakh families in the community, engages with over thousands of children, employs many women and prevents approximately 300 tons of waste from being dumped daily.

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

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 commendably.

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 mark of our undertaking to a greener establishment.
Be a recycler, be a saver.**

Vaneeta Raney [Phd] | Newsletter Editor | Twenty-first Edition, April, 2025



SUCCESS STORY OF ONE CONTRIBUTOR

My Society's name is One Hiranandani Park. It is situated in Ghodbunder road. The Tower consists of eight buildings.

- This initiative has been undertaken to promote a sustainable future. It is just a very small step (a drop in the ocean) to reduce pollution and reduce waste in the landfill for a cleaner and healthier environment.
- This initiative was started around 2 years back. I got the contact of Samarth Bharath from a WhatsApp group. At first I started with donations of clothes for the needy later I came to know about their waste management initiative and their weekly dry waste collection. Though as a society we do segregate waste and the wet waste is used for composting, I wanted to contribute towards the greater benefit of our community.
- I would like to motivate others by creating awareness especially among children who are our future generation to reduce, reuse and recycle materials as far as possible.
- The fact that proper waste disposal will reduce air, soil and water pollution, reduce landfill waste which will lead to cleaner and greener environment for future generations encourages me to continue to be a part of this project.
- My message to the society will be if each of us take a small step today we will have a better future. "A small step in waste management, a giant leap for our planet."

Trupti Srinivasan
Resident, One Hiranandani Park

GRAPH OF THE MONTH



SAFAI DOOT STORY

Mrs. Pooja Dilip Sohe aged 25, was born in Kalwa, Thane to a forester father and a homemaker mother. Her mother tore her books, therefore her education was stopped when she

completed first grade. Due to his drinking behaviour, her forester father was forced to resign from his position. He arrived in Bombay at the Mulund landfill. He also got his mother along. Both started working and living at the landfill. Mother also started drinking. Her father was granted a spot to live close to Kalwa Bridge by the then-strong man of Thane leader Shri Anand Dighe Sahebji.

Her kaka (paternal uncle) passed away suddenly, they travelled to the village for the rites, and when they came back, they saw their house was demolished. Her father became anxious. They were two sisters, two brothers, and her total of five siblings. Her father arranged her marriage, which consisted of just giving her hand in marriage and there being no legal union. Her husband then had a place in Kharegaon.

They eventually moved to Hari Om Nagar. The misfortunes of life persisted. After contracting leprosy, her father eventually passed away. At Uthalsar, close to the civil hospital in Thane; her mother lived on the streets. She was an alcoholic and remarried too.

Her mother's first spouse was kind and made a vow never to abandon her. He fathered a boy for her. She abandoned him and began to roam with her current husband. At Hari Om Nagar, wife swapping is a common practice. She began to remain with her second spouse (current husband). Her first husband was displeased and began drinking as a result of the tension. He died three to four months later. She was expecting at the time. She was unaware of the parent of the child. She is the mother of three children from her current marriage and one boy from a previous union.

She used to steal from locked businesses to collect scrap with her first spouse, which caused her a lot of remorse. Additionally, she smoked, drank, and used gutkha. She was first exposed to Christian prayers by her Mavshi (maternal aunt). She went there for three weeks and offered the prayers. She was no longer guilty of robbing. She already had trust in her Lord Jesus, since he had healed her brother's ill daughter, who was only 3 to 5 days old, doctors had given up hope on her. She was asked to pray to Jesus by her then-husband and aunt. The entire day, she prayed to her lord. The same individual who wanted payment to check her niece into the hospital also checked her into intensive care. The cost of the medical care was rising daily and eventually surpassed two lakhs. She was unsure of how to pay back the money.

Her fervent prayers performed miracles, as the hospital excused the entire sum and gave her a free treatment. Her niece had a smooth discharge from the hospital. Being an adivasi by birth, she has been a practising Christian for past ten years. She celebrates Christmas on a grand scale. At Hari Om Nagar, they have priests who regularly celebrate mass on Sundays and offers assistance where no one else reaches them.

Like other houses in her area, hers is made of wood and tarpaulin that is fastened together with tyres and stones. The flooring is made of carpet remnants from a landfill. She acquired vessels from various sources. Samarth Bharat Vyaspeeth provided connections for light and fan with a mattress to sleep. The toilet is in open. Bathroom is merely an enclosure. She has to pay the rickshaw driver 30 rs to bring water from Kopri Gaon. In a queue, around 3 or 4 am, one collects 4-5 cans of water for the day. They are unable to receive any help from the authorities. In her role as secretary, she rallied other people and raised money for a water pipeline to be supplied to the 'P' ward office for the water connection.

Her salary of about 10,000 and her husband's pay only last her for about 15 days, yet she still helps those who are in need. She has a loan of Rs. 28,000 to pay back. She does borrow from the work place as well. She appreciates that people regularly give food and other supplies since it relieves some of the financial stress.

She is a strong, self-assured woman who takes pride in being a woman and in carrying out her obligations as a mother, who can give birth and take care of her children.

She also showed her feeble side and tried to commit suicide by self-suffocation but was saved. Her current husband cares for the kids, the house, and the kitchen. She only cooks on Sundays if she feels like it; otherwise, she only does the laundry.

She had built a house for her mother and bought her mother with her, but she absconded, claiming that she wanted to live near her father. Due to an accident, she tragically lost her mother and sister. After 18 years, both of her sisters and brothers received compensation for their mother's injury. Her older brother, who fled as a child, came to collect the money. Both sisters received 2 lakhs each, while both brothers received 1.35 lakhs each. She did not receive anything because she is married. One sister, works in the households and lives with them, she has cardiac problems.

She takes satisfaction in having bought her husband a Honda Activa, but the loan agent had to repossess it because the loan wasn't being repaid. She and her husband's friend currently have a pleasant relationship. And used to go with her to the "Diva dumping ground" during covid. Her present husband got into a heated argument with his friend that implicated the police before she arrived at her current work place. She wants to build a home for herself and her kids. She likes her current job. She used to make between 200 and 250 per day at her previous work at Diva and spent it all extravagantly. Having to travel watching accidents and working in the sun was stressful for her.

She currently enjoys her job and receives a monthly income. She enjoys the company of her co-workers. Her salary gives her the freedom to take care of her and the family's needs to a great extent. She cuts cake to mark the birthdays of her kids. She doesn't stock the grocery that month. Her second son attends Signal Shala, while her first son attends Nakhawa School.

Her survival is simply unsounded. Her fortitude and determination drives her forward to face new challenges.



SOCIAL WELFARE

We are blessed to have a leader like Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar, who led a meaningful life and contribute to society's growth. we celebrated Ambedkar Jayanti at kopri site.



The coordinator from the United Way Mahim organization conducted interviews with the women at the Kopri site. They recorded details about their work, any difficulties they face, and other related work.

SOCIAL WELFARE



Grocery Distribution

This year too, the Samarth Bharat Vyaspeeth organisation is placing pots filled with drinking water at locations like Thane Station, Teen Hath Naka, and Naupada to quench people's thirst during the summer.



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SOCIAL WELFARE

Bhamla Foundation organized a mega Mithi River cleanup drive at Mahim Causeway Beach on the occasion of World Earth Day. Film actors, actresses, and politicians attended the event. Our safai sevika are working 365 days a year to clean Mahim Beach. For that, they were felicitated on that day.



Samarth Bharat Vyaspeeth Project Revitalisation Coordinator Yogita Gaikwad visited Happy Valley Society and met with the society members to ensure that as many people as possible participate in this initiative. She also explained how Project Revitalisation works. She also conducted an awareness session on dry waste and wet waste



Earth Day

— 22TH APRIL —

KOPRI SITE TOUR PROJECT REVITALISATION

