



ठाणे
महानगरपालिका
प्रदूषण नियंत्रण कक्ष



समर्थ भारत व्यासपीठ

PUNARNIRMAN



MAY 2025

Editor's message



Dear Readers,

It is a lasting privilege to serve as the editor of this newsletter, and I am delighted to present the twenty-second edition of Punarnirman, for May 2025.

"By reconditioning, you can change the unpleasant upcoming."

This profound truth is something we continue to learn from the remarkable rag-picker women of Thane district, Maharashtra. These women are central to a visionary initiative led by the non-profit organization Samarth Bharat Vyaspeeth (SBV)—a movement that has not only transformed lives but also reshaped public perceptions around waste and its management.

What began as a modest effort to support a few women through skill-building and alternate employment has evolved into a landmark success story in community-led waste management. Today, this initiative connects with over one lakh families, actively involves thousands of children, provides dignified employment to numerous women, and prevents nearly 300 tons of waste from being dumped every day. With support from the Thane Municipal Corporation (TMC), SBV secured access to municipal waste and established a dedicated segregation facility in Kopri, Thane East, where women are gainfully employed in processing and sorting waste materials.

A cornerstone of this transformation has been the Recycled Earth App, developed in partnership with Barking Deer Entertainment. This digital tool has enabled SBV to schedule dry waste pickups from across the city, allowing the Centre to expand its reach. Today, the Centre capably handles multiple streams of waste segregation and recycling—delivering measurable environmental and social impact.

In this edition, we bring you updates on several key projects and events that reflect the ongoing commitment of SBV and its members to inclusive, sustainable development. I would like to extend heartfelt gratitude to Sri Bhatu Sawant and the entire SBV project team for their steadfast support in bringing this issue to life. Let this newsletter stand as a symbol of our shared commitment to a greener, cleaner future.

Be a recycler. Be a saver.

Warm regards,
Dr. Vaneeta Raney
Editor – Punarnirman
Twenty-Second Edition, May 2025



Success story of one contributor



Alguj society
Vasant Vihar

A few years ago, I read in the newspaper that the landfill was reaching its full capacity. Even the Municipal garbage truck workers used to request us to separate wet and dry waste. This highlighted the need for waste segregation and recycling.

Five years ago, I came across information about a waste recycling project. I then joined a group involved in it. Since then, I started making a conscious effort to keep dry waste separate and hand it over once a week.

My friends noticed that every week, I would keep a particular bag in a specific spot in our building. When I explained the process and showed them the Kopri Project, they were inspired and joined too.

Thanks to the effective handling of the recycling project by the Samarth Bharat Vyaspeeth, the enthusiasm for dry waste collection continues to this day.

It is my sincere wish that more and more people understand the importance of dry waste segregation and collection and get involved in this project suitably.



REDUCE USE CYCLE



May Month Total Dry Waste



9135 KG

CONTRIBUTED BY

ALL GROUPS



Graph of
the month

World Environment Day

**PLASTIC
OUT.
NATURE
IN.**

#BeatPlasticPollution

**WORLD
ENVIRONMENT DAY**



Project Head

Smt. Kranti Bhatu Sawant.

For the first time in my life, I am expressing myself. I am an ordinary housewife, one who never looked beyond her household and family. For me, a good life simply meant that my husband should be home by seven in the evening.

As a part of Bhatu's broader vision, I became involved in the redevelopment work in Kopri. In the movie Swades, the grandmother of a NASA scientist sends him to a remote village to collect rent from a farmer. Step by step, the hero reaches the farmer's family and, after witnessing their extreme poverty, quits his job at NASA and dedicates himself to rural development. It took me several months to understand that Bhatu had adopted a similar strategy.

When I saw the problems of the waste-picking women in the project and the struggles of their lives, I transformed completely. Bhatu, who had taken our family to the Samarth Bharat Vyaspeeth, expanded that vision even further. Because of the redevelopment work, my concerns shifted—from our monthly groceries to ensuring daily meals for thirty women in the project.

I began to feel that we must work to free women who cook on firewood stoves from smoke, and that electricity must reach the dark slums. We must solve issues related to menstruation and women's health, and ensure that festivals and celebrations bring joy. Bhatu succeeded in instilling in me the human-centric values of Samarth Bharat Vyaspeeth.

For him, this was an experiment with truth. He succeeded in expanding my idea of family. He would say things like 'Put in a word at Shivaji Hospital for Nadar,' 'Asha had a granddaughter, we should visit,' 'Women are struggling a lot to fetch water, we must do something about it'—and slowly, the idea of "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam" (the world is one family) began to take root in my mind.

Bhatu often said that the Project Revitalisation needed the emotional core of a maternal force, and I am trying, in my own way, to fulfil that need. I had always wished that the struggles of these women be shared with the world—and today, that wish is coming true through this book.

Though their lives are full of suffocation, their stories convey a message of resilience and overcoming every hardship. Through the Revitalisation project, I and the women involved have found a home in thousands of households in Thane. I have experienced first-hand how these people stand like mountains in both happiness and sorrow.

Now, we must take the work of Samarth Bharat Vyaspeeth to its final objectives as per the organization's mission and vision. I continue this work with strong faith that one day, it will be passed on to even more capable hands, who will keep pulling this chariot of change forward. I am confident that these stories of our women and the work of Samarth Bharat will surely touch the hearts of society.

**KRANTI
BHATU
SAWANT**



Social welfare



Collage
students visited
kopri site for
waste
management
project



Awareness session
for College students

Social welfare



Raincoat
distribution for
Safai sathis at
mahim koliwada
beach project.



New project started from may month.
Mahim koliwada community waste
management project.



As part of the Women Empowerment Initiative project of Samarth Bharat Vyaspeeth, e-rickshaws were provided to empower transgenders, waste collectors, widows, and women who do housework.



Rag picker
Malan Sahu's
daughter passed
HSC with the
good marks.

Name : SAHU ASHWINI
SANTOSH
Mother : MALAN
Seat No. : A015259
Division : MUMBAI



SUBJECT CODE	SUBJECT NAME	MARKS OBTAINED
01	MARATHI (1ST LANG)	077
BD	HINDI-SANSKRIT (2/3 LANG)	067
17	ENGLISH (2/3 LANG)	055
71	MATHEMATICS	050
72	SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY	043
73	SOCIAL SCIENCES	065

TOTAL : 314/500

PERCENTAGE : 62.80

RESULT : PASS



Machinery Introduction

