

TRANSFORMING LIVES



“True contentment can only come
through service.”

Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar

Welcome to the August edition of The Art of Living Social Projects newsletter!

Inspired and guided by Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar, The Art of Living Social Projects has achieved significant milestones. From 💧 water conservation, 🌱 sustainable agriculture, 🌳 afforestation, 📖 free education 🛠️ skill development 👩‍🦰 women empowerment, 🏡 integrated village development ⚡ renewable energy to 🗑️ waste management, The Art of Living Social Projects continues to drive meaningful change across India.

Dive in and discover how we're making a real impact - because change is unstoppable when we all work together!



Latur Blooms Again - A Decade of Green Transformation with The Art of Living

Since 2013, the drought-prone region of Latur, Maharashtra, has undergone a remarkable transformation under the guidance of Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar and the leadership of Shri Gomare Mahadev. What began as a river rejuvenation project has now evolved into a holistic ecological movement, driven by The Art of Living Social Projects.

Over the years, the initiative has expanded to include:

- River revival and water conservation
- Over 5 lakh saplings planted, including native, herbal, and fruit-bearing species
- Climate-resilient fodder cultivation on 200 acres
- Natural farming and biodiversity restoration through birds, bees, and pollinators

A key focus is sustainability - ensuring long-term ecological balance, improved farmer incomes, and animal well-being. Recent collaborations with SBI, Atlas Copco, and MAFSU further strengthen the impact through large-scale plantation and fodder growth projects.

Notably, the plantation model boasts a 100% survival rate, far exceeding typical benchmarks. Model farms in Pune and Vidarbha demonstrate regenerative agriculture, while community mobilisation events like the World Environment Day plantation at DIAT Pune showcase the movement's grassroots strength.



Latur comes together to plant a sustainable future



5 lakh trees and counting - 2 lakh more saplings on the way.



Hon District Collector of Latur, Smt. Varsha Thakur, graced the tree plantation initiative in Akharwai village

Spring Chamber Constructed at Harandur under NABARD - supported Springshed Development Project



A unique Spring Chamber has been successfully constructed as part of a springshed development project at Harandur village, near Koppa in Chikkamagaluru district. The project site, located in the spring valley known as Naganasaralu, has seen the implementation of this simple yet effective structure directly over a natural spring.

The primary objectives of the Spring Chamber are twofold: to measure the discharge of spring water and to safeguard the spring's outlet passage. The chamber is built to precise specifications, enabling accurate quantification of water flow while ensuring long-term protection of the water source.

This initiative forms part of a NABARD-supported project and was executed by the VVKI team. The design and technical drawing of the chamber were approved by the relevant department, underscoring its value and sustainability.

In the accompanying photo, the chamber structure is clearly visible, along with a site inspection conducted by the DGM.

This project serves as a model for future springshed development efforts, combining simplicity with effective groundwater resource management.

Resilience Amid Rising Waters: Radhakunj Wetland Project Withstands Flood Test

On July 3, 2025, the Radhakunj Lake area experienced a significant surge in water inflow, surpassing the Maximum Water Level (MWL) and resulting in dramatic flooding. The force of the floodwaters inundated the partially completed wetland area.

Understandably, the unexpected flooding raised concerns regarding the survival of the newly planted vegetation. However, by July 7, 2025, as the water levels receded and normal flow resumed, a positive development was observed. The RED CANNA plant species, prominently featured in the wetland, emerged unscathed and vibrant, displaying remarkable resilience.

While minor damages to wetland structures were noted, these were largely due to the incomplete nature of ongoing work. These structures are now being reinforced, and the remaining execution will ensure the site is capable of withstanding any future flood events.

This initiative, being undertaken as an Action Research Project, continues to provide valuable insights into ecosystem restoration and resilience, reinforcing the importance of thoughtful design and adaptive ecological practices.



How a Washed-Out Checkdam Found Its Strength

Three years ago, the rains came hard - and a vital checkdam feeding Radhakunj Lake at The Art of Living International Center, Bengaluru, was left damaged and weakened. What once held back the force of the monsoon had given way.

But this wasn't the end of the story. With Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar's blessings, the situation was transformed. In just one month, what was once broken was not only repaired - but completely reborn.

Engineers and volunteers worked with precision and purpose: clearing debris, reinforcing foundations, joining new walls seamlessly to the old, and using smart slope protection to guide water flow safely. Even the original three-pipe hydraulic system was preserved - honouring the past while strengthening the future.

When the floods returned, they brought a new test. This time, the checkdam held firm.

Today, that structure stands not just as infrastructure, but as a symbol of persistence, planning, teamwork, and timely action. Proof that when spirit and science work together, even damaged foundations can rise stronger than before.

Rampur Rises: From Drought & Deluge to Hope & Harvest

In Rampur, Uttar Pradesh, where summers meant dry taps and monsoons brought floods, the rhythm of life was once set by the whims of the Kosi River. For years, farmers watched their fields dry up or wash away, while families struggled to find safe drinking water.

Everything began to shift just three years ago - with the blessings of Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar and the leadership of The Art of Living Social Projects. What followed was a remarkable turnaround powered by science, service, and community.

Floodwater that once destroyed is now being harnessed. 244 recharge shafts and a pioneering subsurface dyke are helping water soak deep into the ground instead of washing away. 80 villages have seen their water tables rise, crops return, and confidence grow.

What makes this change last? People. Over 7,000 locals have joined hands - learning water literacy, leading village initiatives, and becoming Jalmitras (friends of water). Women and youth are at the forefront, turning knowledge into action.

Even government reports echo the transformation: Chamraua's water status improved from 'critical' to 'semi-critical', and Saidnagar's from 'semi-critical' to 'safe'.

As Rajni Devi, a village head, puts it: "Earlier, water just ran off. Now it stays."

Rampur is no longer just surviving - it's showing the way forward. What started here is now inspiring a statewide shift.



Science, service, and solidarity breathe new life into Rampur

Explore how change is unfolding - read and share our latest stories and updates

- [Latur: A Decade of Tremendous Revival by The Art of Living](#)
- [Reclaiming Water, Restoring Hope for Kolar: The Art of Living & Ashirvad](#)
- [The Art of Living's Powerful Water Warriors Are Rewriting India's Future](#)

Dharma Sthambha Yojana

Gurudev's vision is realised via two transformative pathways: empowering individuals through personal development and catalysing social change with large-scale community initiatives. These efforts work in harmony to build a stronger, more sustainable nation.

At the heart of this mission is the Dharma Sthambha Yojana (DSY), which connects socially responsible individuals to impactful service projects. By directing financial contributions toward initiatives like water conservation, education, women's empowerment, and skill training, DSY transforms generosity into lasting change - driving national progress and sustainability.



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- + 91 7676223929
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