



# TRANSFORMING LIVES



The very thought I am here in this world to do seva (service), dissolves the I and when I dissolves, worries dissolve. Seva is not something done out of convenience or pleasure. The ultimate purpose of life is to be of service.

Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar

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 🌿 environmental protection 📖 free education 🚺 women empowerment 🏠 rural development 📍 border area development 🐼 gaudhan 📄 Awareness Courses  
Change becomes real when we act as one, moving forward together.

## A Landmark Step Towards India's Water Security

A significant step towards strengthening India's water security has been taken with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Ministry of Jal Shakti (MoJS) and The Art of Living Social Projects. The agreement was signed by Br Pragyachaitanya, Chairman of The Art of Living Social Projects, and Shri N. Ashok Babu, Director of the National Water Mission (NWM).

This partnership brings together the Government of India's national priorities under the NWM with The Art of Living Social Projects' decade-long expertise, technical capabilities, and grassroots reach. It recognises the organisation's proven ability to mobilise citizens, execute structured water-conservation programmes, and deliver measurable impact at scale - a critical advantage as India faces growing water stress from population growth, erratic rainfall, and heavy dependence on groundwater.

Under this collaboration, The Art of Living Social Projects will standardise implementation processes, build capacities, sensitise stakeholders, and accelerate the creation of groundwater-recharge structures across the country. With a dedicated team of engineers and hydro-geologists, the organisation develops action plans for basin, sub-basin, and watershed-level interventions. Its extensive work includes river rejuvenation programmes and a variety of groundwater-recharge structures under the MGNREGA scheme, backed by a strong presence across Gram Panchayats, Taluka Panchayats, and Zilla Panchayats for efficient large-scale execution.



Securing India's Water Future: MoU between the Ministry of Jal Shakti and The Art of Living Social Projects



# Major River Rejuvenation Project Launched - 238 Gram Panchayats to Benefit Across 4 Districts

A landmark initiative has been launched to revive the Dakshina Pinakini River and restore its lifeline across four districts - Kolar, Bengaluru Rural, Chikkaballapur, and Bengaluru Urban. Over the next three years, the project aims to bring water resilience for communities of 238 Gram Panchayats within the river basin through a carefully planned, integrated approach.

The project will focus on groundwater recharge, lake restoration, afforestation, soil and water conservation, and wastewater management, blending scientific methods with community-driven action.

## Why This River Matters

The Dakshina Pinakini River, originating in the scenic Nandi Hills of Chikkaballapur, winds through multiple districts before joining the Bay of Bengal. In recent decades, urbanisation, deforestation, and excessive water extraction have disrupted its natural flow and ecological balance. This ambitious rejuvenation project seeks to restore the river's vitality, ensuring water security, supporting agriculture, and reviving local ecosystems.

The initiative is being implemented jointly by The Art of Living Social Projects and the District Administrations of the four districts, with technical guidance from environmental experts and local institutions.

## On the Ground: How the Work Will Unfold

- Comprehensive surveys have mapped groundwater tables, recharge zones, and degraded water bodies.
- Rejuvenation activities will include construction of recharge wells, restoration of tanks and lakes, and tree-planting drives.
- Community participation is at the heart of the project - local farmers, gram panchayats, and citizen groups will actively maintain and protect the restored ecosystems.

## A Vision for the Future

Officials describe the project as a model for sustainable river basin management, combining traditional wisdom with modern hydrological and ecological planning. The goal is to increase water storage, revive biodiversity, improve soil fertility, and support rural livelihoods across the basin.

Environmental experts have already called it a "blueprint for future river rejuvenation initiatives" in Karnataka, demonstrating how science, governance, and community action can come together to bring a river back to life.



*Dr. Naveen Bhat, IAS, CEO of Chikkaballapur District, lights the ceremonial lamp to inaugurate the initiative*



*A sacred Jalkalash ceremony united water from five rivers of Chikkaballapur district, witnessed by esteemed dignitaries.*



## Workshops Advance River Rejuvenation Efforts in Chikkaballapur and Devannahalli

A series of workshops is bringing renewed focus to the Dakshina Pinakini River Rejuvenation Project, highlighting coordinated action between government departments, technical experts, and local communities.

In Chikkaballapur, a one-day workshop was held at the Zilla Panchayat Hall under the leadership of the District CEO, Dr. Naveen Bhat I.A.S. The session was inaugurated by the CEO of the Zilla Panchayat, who stressed the importance of collaboration across departments and active public engagement for the long-term success of the river rejuvenation efforts.

Experts and senior officials from the water resources, forest, and rural development departments shared insights on sustainable river management, groundwater recharge, and community participation. Participants - including Taluk Panchayat officers, environmental officers, engineers, technical assistants, and representatives from various organisations - engaged in discussions on strategies for effective implementation, awareness creation, and stakeholder coordination.

In Devannahalli, a separate workshop was conducted at the Zilla Panchayat auditorium, led by Dr. K.N. Anuradha, an IAS officer; and the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Zilla Panchayat for Bangalore Rural District. She emphasised that the project's success depends on inter-departmental cooperation and active participation of local communities.

The workshops also featured representatives from The Art of Living Social Projects, who shared experiences and lessons from previous river rejuvenation initiatives. Officials, engineers, technical staff, and NGO representatives all pledged joint efforts to support ongoing rejuvenation activities and ensure the long-term revival and protection of the river basin.

These workshops demonstrate a strong, collaborative approach, combining administrative leadership, technical expertise, and community involvement to secure the future sustainability of the Dakshina Pinakini River Basin.



Dr. K.N. Anuradha (fourth from left) CEO of the Zilla Panchayat for Bangalore Rural District inaugurates a workshop in Devannahalli

## Key Technical Engagements Strengthen River Rejuvenation Planning in Karnataka

As part of ongoing efforts to contribute scientific and technical inputs to river rejuvenation in Karnataka, The Art of Living Social Projects recently engaged with senior experts and institutions involved in studies of the Arkavathi and Vrishabhavathi river systems.

The Government of Karnataka has constituted a committee to undertake detailed studies of the Arkavathi and Vrishabhavathi valleys, chaired by Shri K. Jaiprakash, Technical Advisor to Deputy Chief Minister (DCM) of Karnataka, and a widely respected expert in water resources management. His long-standing experience spans major irrigation projects, dam safety, and inter-district water issues. Dr Lingaraju Yale, National Director, River Rejuvenation Projects, The Art of Living Social Projects, and former Director of KRSAC (Government of Karnataka), is a member of this committee, serving as a subject-matter expert.

As the Suvarnamukhi River is a tributary of the Arkavathi, the River Rejuvenation team from The Art of Living Social Projects presented Shri Jaiprakash with the Technical Report on the Rejuvenation of the Suvarnamukhi Reservoir Catchment, so that its findings may be considered in his work on the Arkavathi and Vrishabhavathi valley studies.

In addition, the River Rejuvenation team also held discussions with Padma Shri awardee Dr Shailesh Nayak a distinguished Indian earth scientist and research leader, currently serving as the Director of the National Institute of Advanced Studies (NIAS) in Bengaluru, as well as Chancellor of the TERI School of Advanced Studies, Delhi. The focus was on the importance of integrating scientific research, data-driven planning, and institutional collaboration in river rejuvenation and water security initiatives.



**Suvarnamukhi report presented at the Committee meeting on studies of the Vrushabhavathi & Arkavathi valleys, chaired by Shri K. Jaiprakash, Technical Advisor to DCM of Karnataka**

**Productive discussions with Padma Shri awardee Dr. Shailesh Nayak; Director, NIAS Bengaluru; towards advancing the Funnelling and Tunneling project**





## Newsflash | The Art of Living Social Projects Powers Koratla School Student to National Win

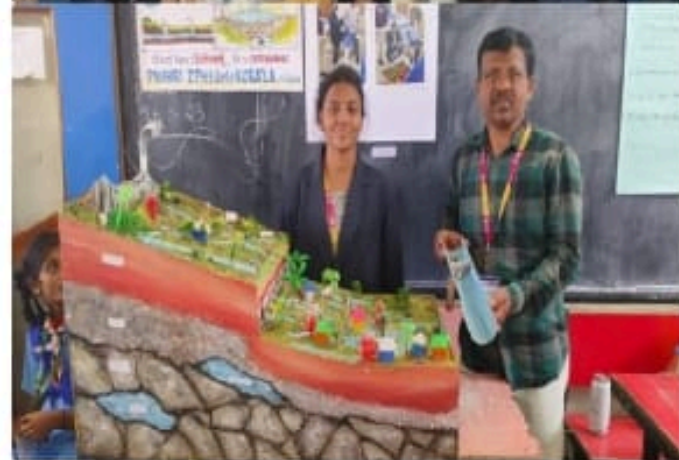
A project on Managed Aquifer Recharge (MAR) & Water Rejuvenation, presented by S. Himani, a student of PM Shri Zilla Parishad Girls High School, Koratla, in the Jagtial district of Telangana has won First Prize at the National Level, following top honours at both District and State levels - a rare clean sweep.

Guided by science teacher Mr. Chanda Nagaraju and with expert technical support from Mr. Sahadev Gundeti, Geophysicist at The Art of Living Social Projects, Bengaluru, the project impressed the jury with its innovation, scientific accuracy, and real-world applicability. The judges highlighted the practical depth and scientific insight provided by The Art of Living Social Projects, which strengthened the project's demonstration of water conservation techniques.

The achievement has brought pride to the school, its teachers, and the district, showcasing the power of student-led innovation in sustainable water management.

### Koratla School Student Wins National First Prize for Water Conservation Project

Jagtial, District correspondent"  
PRESS MEDIA BY ""MD ikramuddin  
January 11 A project titled "Managed Aquifer Recharge (MAR) and Water Rejuvenation" has won first prize at a national-level competition, bringing laurels to PM SHRI Zilla Parishad Girls High School, Koratla, in Jagtial district of Telangana. The award-winning project was presented by S. Himani, a student of the school, under the guidance of science teacher Mr. Chanda Nagaraju, with expert technical support from Mr. Gundeti Sahadev, Geophysicist from the Art of Living NGO, Bengaluru. The jury appreciated the project for its innovation, scientific accuracy, field applicability, and relevance in addressing real-world water challenges. Judges also noted that the technical guidance provided by the Art of Living NGO added strong practical depth



and scientific insight to the project. The achievement has brought pride to the school, teachers, and the district, highlighting the importance of student-led scientific innovation in sustainable water management



## Newsflash | 25 Years of Educating Tribal Children, Transforming Communities



*25 years of happy classrooms, brighter futures, and smiles that tell a thousand stories.*

Inspired by Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar, the Tribal School Project began in 1999 as a single school in the remote interiors of Jharkhand. Today, it has evolved into 17 free residential and day schools, offering holistic education from Kindergarten to Class X to nearly 3,000 tribal children.

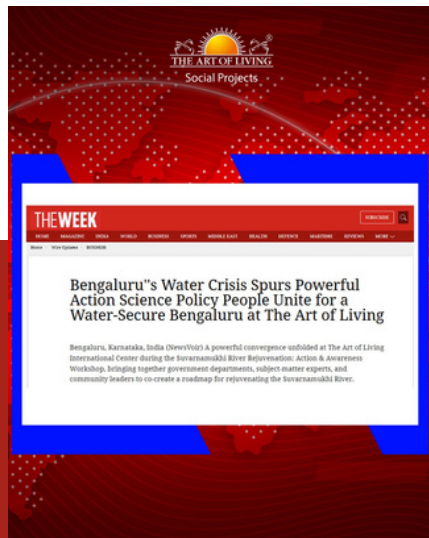
The impact is not just expansive - it is measurable. In the Class X Jharkhand Board Examinations (2023-24), the schools recorded a 100% pass rate, with most students scoring above 90%. Education here goes beyond classrooms. Students receive free uniforms, books, nutritious mid-day meals, computer access, sports coaching, yoga and meditation, alongside exposure to archery, robotics, AI-supported learning, organic farming, and life skills. Teachers are regularly trained in modern, technology-enabled pedagogy to keep learning future-ready.

The project also strengthens communities - through women-run tailoring units, environmental initiatives, sanitation drives, and village awareness programmes - creating a self-sustaining ecosystem around education.

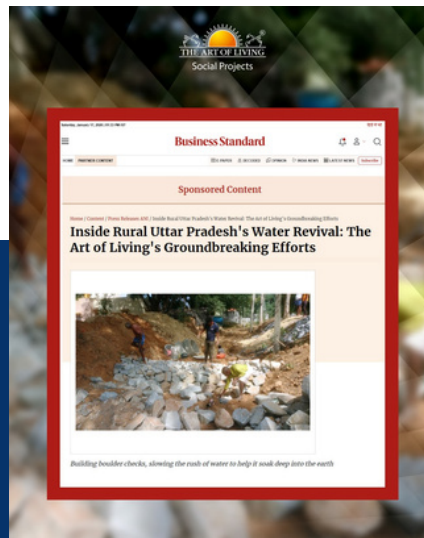
As it marks 25 years, the Tribal School Project stands as a powerful model of how value-based, holistic education can break cycles of poverty and change destinies.



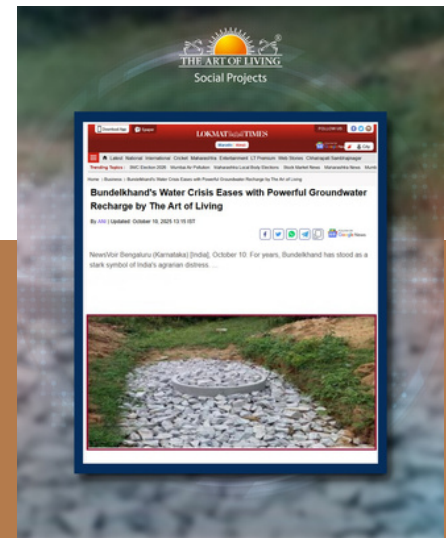
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[Bengaluru's Water Crisis Spurs Powerful Action Science Policy People Unite for a Water-Secure Bengaluru at The Art of Living](#)



[Inside Rural Uttar Pradesh's Water Revival: The Art of Living's Groundbreaking Efforts](#)



[Bundelkhand's Water Crisis Eases with Powerful Groundwater Recharge by The Art of Living](#)

## **Dharma Sthambha Yojana (DSY)**

Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar's vision comes alive through two powerful streams of transformation: nurturing individuals to live with greater clarity, resilience and joy; and uplifting entire communities through large-scale, grassroots initiatives. Together, they form a dynamic force that strengthens the nation - creating ripples of change that reach every corner of society.

At the centre of this movement stands the Dharma Sthambha Yojana (DSY). Established under the umbrella of The Art of Living Social Projects, DSY serves as a vital bridge between individuals inspired by Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar's vision and initiatives transforming communities across India - channelling donations transparently, efficiently and fully into projects spanning water conservation, afforestation, free education, integrated village development, renewable energy, gaudhan, waste management and more.

By empowering individuals to regularly contribute a portion of their income, DSY transforms personal generosity into meaningful, measurable, large-scale impact. Through this initiative, giving becomes a shared journey - a powerful investment in India's collective well-being and a resilient, thriving nation.

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