

TRANSFORMING LIVES



"When you see that you're here to contribute and that there are people who need you more than you need anything else, it gives you the strength to move through even the moments when you cannot smile."

Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar



Welcome to the April 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!

Nature's Comeback: Rare Indian Skimmers Spotted at Haiderpur Wetland

At Haiderpur Wetland, a rare sighting of 74 endangered Indian Skimmers—fewer than 2,500 of which survive globally—has electrified the conservation community. But this wasn't a lucky glimpse. It was the culmination of tireless fieldwork by Ashish Gujar, a young naturalist trained under The Art of Living Social Projects.

This transformative moment is part of a broader success story. The wetland's journey from an overlooked floodplain along the Ganga to a Ramsar-recognised site is credited to the relentless efforts of conservationist Ashish Loya. Inspired by Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar, Loya's work - blending scientific research with grassroots mobilisation - put Haiderpur on the global ecological map.



A rare sight of Indian Skimmers slicing through the skies

Under his mentorship, local youth like Gujar have become biodiversity champions, turning Haiderpur into a thriving sanctuary for endangered wildlife and an eco-tourism destination. This is what happens when vision meets grassroots grit - nature responds.

Water for Tomorrow: Creating Impact from 2024 to 2025



This is Jal Tara - an unassuming power house, steadily recharging groundwater

From January 2024 to January 2025, The Art of Living Social Projects enabled the conservation of over 5845.9 million litres of water; through innovative, community-driven solutions across India.

The JalTara initiative led the way with 13,217 recharge structures across Maharashtra, Telangana, and Karnataka — each compact but mighty, conserving nearly 396 crore litres annually. In Uttar Pradesh, the Bhujal Shakti Project brought groundwater back to life in Rampur & Lalitpur with scientific interventions like recharge shafts and boulder checks.

In Bengaluru, where water scarcity looms large, the rejuvenation of the Pennar River Basin is underway - with 14,000 recharge structures planned and 15,714 trees planted to restore ecosystems. The revival of Radha Kunj Lake, using nature-based solutions, has seen pollution levels drop dramatically, welcoming aquatic life once again.

From desilting 24.85 lakh cubic meters in Maharashtra under JalYukt Shivar Abhiyan 2.0, to planting coconut and palm trees along Tamil Nadu's rivers, this past year proves that when ancient wisdom meets modern science, water flows, life thrives, and the future turns green.

The Art of Living Social Projects has played a pivotal role in revitalising India's water infrastructure through comprehensive initiatives. While the numbers below are up to date, they are still on an upward trajectory:

174.52 billion litres of total water conserved so far
34.5 million lives impacted across **20,000+** villages
70+ rivers and streams being revived across India
1,05,000+ groundwater recharge structures constructed

59,000+ km of land rejuvenated
290.6 million cubic meters desilted
912 million trees planted

These aren't just current figures - they're futures, rescued from drought and despair.

Women Empowerment: Fueling Strength, Inspiring Change.

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44,000 women. One mission. Reviving the Naganadhi River with unstoppable shakti.

Transforming Futures through Free Schools



In the remote corners of India, where quality education is still a distant dream, The Art of Living Social Projects is revamping lives through its network of 1,262 free schools across 22 states, reaching over 1,00,000 children - 48% of them girls.

Rooted in holistic learning, these schools blend modern education with ancient wisdom, offering daily practices like pranayama, meditation, and Sudarshan Kriya to nurture not just minds, but hearts. With a near-zero dropout rate and 100% exam success, they are redefining what's possible for first-generation learners.

From computer labs and nutritious meals to free transport and medical care, every detail is designed to remove barriers and ignite potential. At the heart of this movement are dedicated teachers who double as community changemakers, spreading ripples of transformation far beyond the classroom.

The journey began in 1981, thanks to the compassionate vision of Smt. Bhanumathi Narasimhan, and continues to uplift thousands of children every day.

Revitalising Remote Villages with Renewable Energy

The Art of Living Social Projects is lighting up rural India through renewable energy, impacting communities with solar power. By setting up solar microgrids and distributing solar lanterns, the initiative has electrified over 700 villages, benefiting 1,65,000+ people across states like Bihar, Assam, and Jammu & Kashmir. With a focus on clean energy, economic growth, and creating local solar entrepreneurs, the organization has trained over 20,000 rural youth in solar skills, fostering long-term sustainability.

From electrifying 177 schools, benefiting over 17,000 students, to creating solar-powered smart schools, the project is bridging gaps in education, livelihood, and access. The impact is profound: a brighter future is unfolding, where energy access is no longer a distant dream but a powerful reality driving progress in even the most remote parts of India.



Powering 177 schools and 17,000+ dreams - solar energy is lighting the path to education and opportunity.

A Game-Changer in Solid Waste Management

The Art of Living Social Projects is leading an innovative shift in waste management by converting unsegregated municipal solid waste into sustainable energy. Using pyrolysis technology, organic waste is transformed into biochar, bio-oil, and syngas - reducing landfill pressure and emissions while creating eco-friendly fuel alternatives for homes and industries. This groundbreaking approach builds on the organisation's proven track record in waste-to-compost innovation, driving forward a cleaner, greener future for all.



Lauded Once Again: The Art of Living Social Projects Wins Best Water NGO – Rainwater Harvesting!

The Art of Living Social Projects has been honoured as the Best Water NGO - Rainwater Harvesting at the prestigious Water Digest World Water Awards 2024-25. This recognition reaffirms our unwavering commitment to water conservation and sustainable solutions.

This accolade adds to a growing list of honours:

- ☀️ Naganadhi River Rejuvenation Applauded in 2024 by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji in Mann ki Baat
- ☀️ Best NGO of the Year (Water Conservation) 2024 at Global CSR & ESG Awards
- ☀️ Best CSR Impact Award for JalTara Project 2024 at NGI CSR Leadership Summit & Awards, Hyderabad
- ☀️ The Friends of Mumbai Award 2024 (The Sunday Guardian), for Excellence in Water Rejuvenation in Presence of Shri Eknath Shinde, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Maharashtra
- ☀️ Winner in Environment CSR Projects (Large NGO) 2024, at 3rd Edition of Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCC&I) Social Leadership Conclave & Awards
- ☀️ Honoured at 5th National Water Awards 2023, by Ministry of Jal Shakti, Govt of India
- ☀️ Honoured at Jal Prahari Samman 2023, Supported by Ministry of Jal Shakti and United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS)
- ☀️ NGO of 2023 for Water Conservation at The SMX CSR Change Maker Summit & Awards 2.0
- ☀️ Sustainable Champions Award 2023 by US India SME Council Inc
- ☀️ Honoured in 2023 for Community Mobilisation and River Rejuvenation by Govt of Karnataka
- ☀️ Best CSR Impact Project of the Decade Award 2024 for Mangrove Restoration in Sunderbans at SMX CSR Summit 3.0
- ☀️ Rampur Water Conservation Award 2022 by Ministry of Jal Shakti and Ministry of Rural Development
- ☀️ Water Sustainability Award 2021-22 by UNDP, Water Resources and The Energy & Resources Institute (TERI), New Delhi

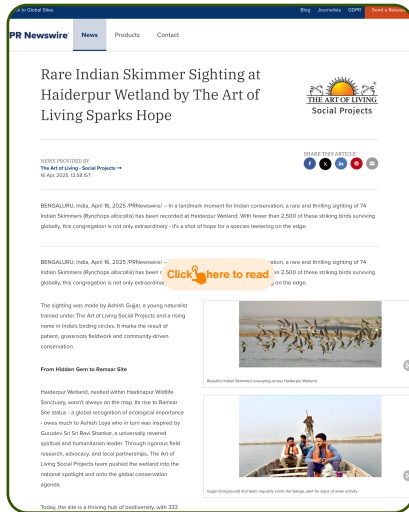
This incredible journey would not have been possible without the collective efforts of our partners, volunteers, & supporters. Together, we are making India water-secure, one project at a time!

Some Recent MoUs

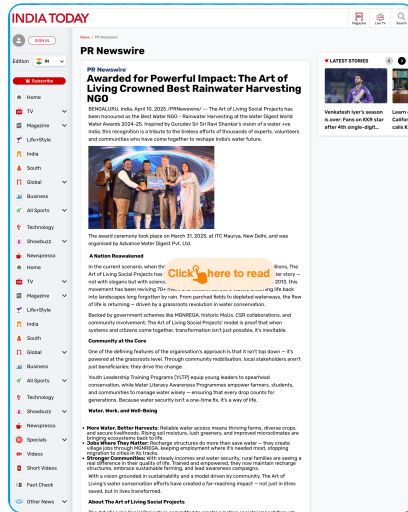
- **April 12:** Two MoUs with the Madhya Pradesh State Employment Guarantee Council (MPSEGC). One MoU covers water conservation along several river basins across the state. The second MoU targets the restoration of Chandela and Bundela tanks.
- **March 20:** MoU was signed on between RDPR (Karnataka Govt), ITC Ltd. & The Art of Living Social Projects to rejuvenate the South Pennar River Basin. Will help address Bengaluru's water crisis with sustainable solutions across Bengaluru Urban, Rural, Kolar & Chikkaballapur
- **March 11:** MoU with the Chhattisgarh Govt in the presence of Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar & Hon'ble CM Vishnu Deo Sai for development & job creation.
- **March 5:** The Art of Living's Government Executive Programs signed an MOU with the Capacity Building Commission. The training will focus on leadership, stress management, and life skills for government officers across various ministries, covering all management cadres.



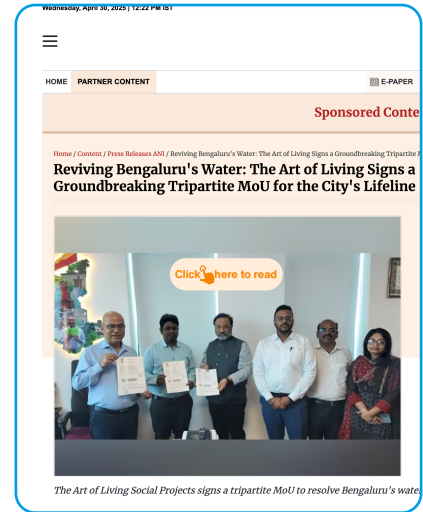
Explore how change is unfolding - read and share our latest stories and updates.



The Art of Living & Chhattisgarh Government Join Hands for Holistic Development



The Art of Living's JalTara: A Simple Yet Revolutionary Answer to India's Water Crisis



Strengthening India's Civil Services: The Art of Living's Partnership with the Capacity Building Commission

MoU Signed with Madhya Pradesh State Employment Guarantee Council

The Art of Living Social Projects has recently signed two MoUs with the Madhya Pradesh State Employment Guarantee Council (MPSEGC). One MoU covers water conservation along several river basins across the state. The second MoU targets the restoration of Chandela and Bundela tanks.



Present on the occasion were Shri Prahlad Singh Patel, Hon'ble Minister of Panchayat Rural Development & Labour, Government of Madhya Pradesh and Br. Pragyachaitanya, Chairman, The Art of Living Social Projects.

Dharma Sthambha Yojana (DSY)

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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AN IMPACT**



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