

ADOPTING VILLAGES, CHANGING LIVES

**A REPORT ON THE THREE VILLAGES
ADOPTED BY THE GOVERNOR OF MAHARASHTRA**

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Patron and Inspiration

Shri Ch. Vidyasagar Rao
Hon'ble Governor of Maharashtra

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FOREWORD



There are approximately 100 million people in our country who belong to the Scheduled Tribes. A majority of this population lives in regions that are covered under the Fifth and the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution of India. Governors can help in the shaping of a road map for the betterment of lives of our fellow citizens, who have not benefited as much as expected from our development journey.

Shri Ram Nath Kovind,
Hon'ble President of India



Tribal welfare has always been a matter of passion and commitment for me. Long before being appointed as the Governor of Maharashtra in August 2014, I had studied the Forest Rights Act, PESA and other provisions aimed at empowering the tribals. As a member of the legislative assembly of undivided Andhra Pradesh representing the Opposition, I had often fought with the government to secure the legitimate rights of tribals.

The Fifth Schedule of the Constitution of India gives the Governors of the ten States with Scheduled Areas, including Maharashtra, important responsibilities for the welfare of the inhabitants of these areas. A Tribal Cell has been constituted in Raj Bhavan to assist the Governor to discharge his responsibilities under Schedule V.

I took various decisions using these powers to empower the Scheduled Areas and to ensure the welfare of the people inhabiting these areas.

At the Conference of Governors held at Rashtrapati Bhavan in February 2016, the then President of India had publicly applauded my decision to devolve five per cent of funds under the Tribal Sub-Plan directly to the Village Panchayats in the Scheduled Areas.

Between 2014 and 2019, I visited some of the remotest places in Gadchiroli, Nandurbar, Nanded, Nashik and other districts. During

these visits, I interacted with people, officials and representatives of non-government organisations to get a perspective of the problems faced by the people in the Scheduled Areas. I also visited many Adivasi Ashram Shalas and interacted with students.

In a crucial decision, access to high-value Minor Forest Produce was provided to the Gram Sabhas in the Scheduled Areas. The power of notification was used to establish the right of the Gram Sabhas over high-value products like bamboo, honey, *tendu*, etc. Likewise, minor water bodies were transferred to Gram Panchayats to assure them income from fisheries.

At my insistence, the three most backward villages in Maharashtra's tribal areas, namely Jawarla (Nanded district), Bhagdari (Nandurbar district) and Mangurda (Yavatmal district) were adopted. My office took a series of meetings with the administrative officers in charge of these villages on a regular basis. Officers were asked to measure baselines and chalk out detailed plans by involving all stakeholders. The stress in these villages was on a convergent approach, achieved by uniting various Government schemes. Interventions in health, education, livelihood, irrigation, water harvesting, and sanitation were taken up in right earnest.

Thanks to these persistent efforts, the three villages have come up on various levels of development and become villages with a difference.

I asked my Secretariat to document these initiatives with the help of officers in charge of the concerned villages and to bring out a publication.

I wish and hope that the publication will enable other villages to follow the best practices of development to ensure a better quality of life for our people, especially those living in the Scheduled Areas.

Sincerely,

Ch. Vidyasagar Rao
Governor of Maharashtra
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INTRODUCTION

“If we have to build the nation, we have to start from the villages... if every MP transforms villages in his/her constituency into model villages, a large number of villages in the country would see holistic development”

– Shri Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India

October 11th, 2014 was a momentous day for three reasons. First, it was freedom fighter Jayaprakash Narayan’s birth anniversary. Second, it saw the launch of the Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojana, a rural development programme focused on the social and cultural development of Indian villages. Third, the Hon’ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, used the launch of the scheme to propose a visionary initiative to Members of Parliament. He asked each of them to adopt three villages and develop them into model villages.

Inspired by the idea, the Hon’ble Governor of Maharashtra, Shri CH. Vidyasagar Rao, decided to adopt three of the most backward villages in the State and transform them into model villages in terms of developmental processes.

Once the decision was made, the question of the hour was: How did one choose which villages to transform? Considering the fact that Maharashtra consists of three prominent regions – Vidarbha, Marathwada, and the Rest of Maharashtra – the Governor chose to adopt one village from each area. Maharashtra is notably the only state in India where the Hon’ble President of India has enabled the Hon’ble Governor to set up

three Regional Development Boards for the three regions under Article 371 (2) of the Constitution.

Considering his responsibilities under Schedule V of the Constitution, the Governor decided to focus on three villages in the Scheduled Areas, which are places with large tribal populations.

Adoption of Three Villages

After reviewing the recommendations of the district administrations in the Scheduled Areas, the Governor zeroed in on three villages – Jawarla in Nanded district of Marathwada, Bhagdari in the Nandurbar district of Rest of Maharashtra, and Mangurda in Yavatmal district of Vidarbha.

A baseline survey was carried out for the villages so as to identify the developmental needs of the residents. The blueprints for the project were prepared by the respective district administrations in collaboration with the people and under the careful eye of the Governor and the Tribal Cell in the Governor’s Secretariat.

The strategy for development was dual-pronged: combining all existing government schemes and combining the efforts of government and voluntary agencies concerned.

After extensive deliberation, an action plan

was formulated with a focus on:

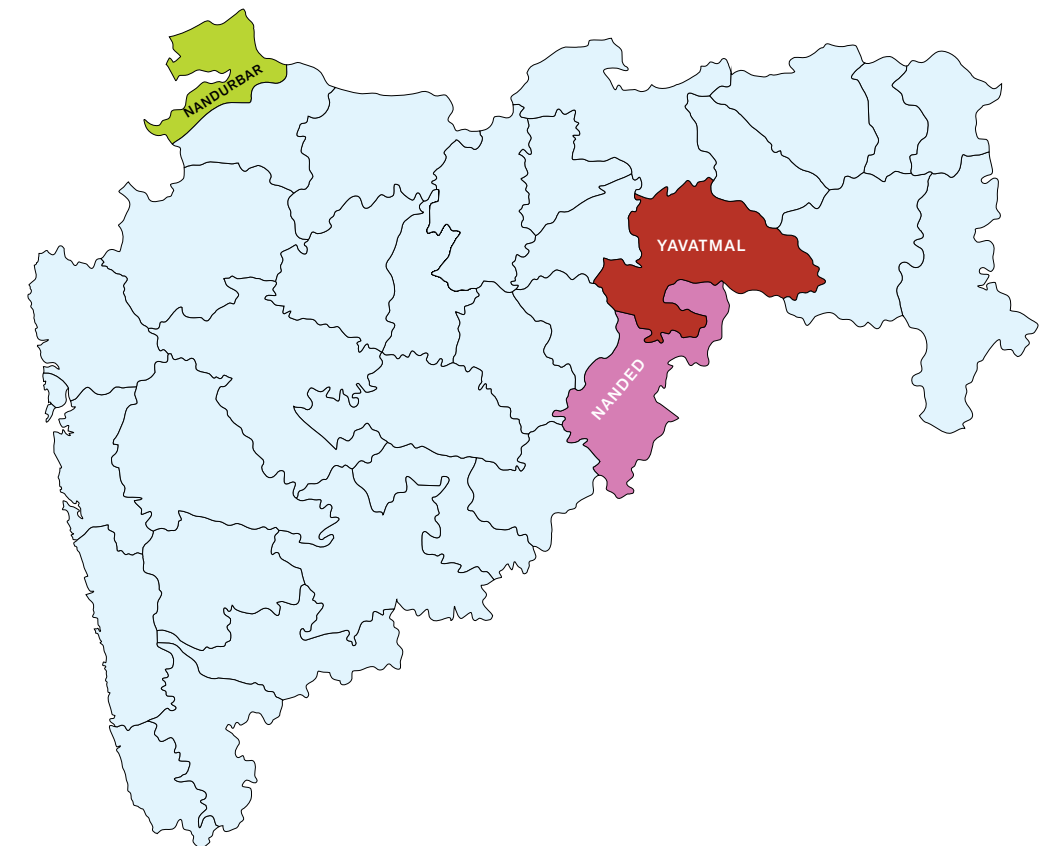
1. Harnessing land, water and other natural resources in an optimal way.
2. Development of agriculture and allied sectors to their maximum potential.
3. Bridging gaps in road and communication connectivity.
4. Housing for all and toilets for all houses.
5. Reliable and assured supply of electricity to the villages as well as electrification of all houses.
6. Making the villages ODF (open defecation free).
7. Providing safe drinking water to all households in their vicinity.

8. Health and nutrition.

9. Creating adequate educational infrastructure.
10. LPG connections to all households.

11. Public services at the doorsteps of the people. The district administrations were asked to collaborate with universities and corporates to prepare and implement the development plans.

For the Governor, the driving force behind this ambitious scheme, was to bring about an all-round and sustainable development of the villages through the convergence of various schemes, improvement in the delivery of various services and enhancement of skills of the people – thereby creating benchmarks for other villages.



VILLAGE PROFILE

1. JAWARLA

Jawarla is situated in the Kinwat tehsil of Nanded district, in the Marathwada region. It is located in the eastern part of Maharashtra, bordering the Adilabad district of Telangana. The population of the village is 1844 with an ST population of 1441 (78.14% of the total).

The total geographical area of this village is 2045.57 ha. Of this, forest area comprises 928.7 ha and area under cultivation is 931.4 ha; each represents 46% of the total village area. 71% of the farmers are small and marginal.

There are three settlements in the village, namely, Jawarla, Palsidag and Kajipod. Palsidag and Kajipod are

settlements of Kolam, a Particular Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG).

Around 87% of the people are literate. Female literacy rate is higher than male literacy – a unique highlight of the community. In terms of infrastructure, Jawarla has a health sub-centre, primary school and four anganwadis.

The health sub-centre is attached to the Primary Health Centre (PHC) located at Kothari, about 12 km from Jawarla. The closest banks in the vicinity are State Bank of India and Nanded District Central Co-operative Bank, located 4 km away at Mandvi. Situated at a distance of 38 km is Kinwat, the nearest town and tehsil headquarters.



2. BHAGDARI

Bhagdari lies in the north-western part of Maharashtra, bordering Gujarat. It is located in the Akkalkuwa tehsil of Nandurbar district. The nearest town is Taloda, which is 60 km from Bhagdari.

The geographical area of this village is about 2767.79 ha, of which forest area comprises 1037.93 ha, which is 37.50% of the aggregate area of the village. The cultivable area is 1701.14 ha, which is 61.46% of the total area of the village. Bhagdari is a group Gram Panchayat with two villages, namely, Bhagdari and Olapada and together they have 23 *padas* (hamlets). The population as per the 2011 census is 7765, **consisting entirely of Scheduled Tribes (ST)**.

There are 589 landholders in the village, of which 60% are small and marginal. The literacy rate as per the 2011 census is 54%.

Bhagdari's Gram Panchayat has 18 elected representatives. Both a Joint Forest Management Committee and a Minor Forest Produce Committee are present, in addition to 81 active SHGs (Self-Help Groups).

The village has a government residential school, 11 Zilla Parishad schools, 14 anganwadis, and a cultural hall. The health sub-centre is attached to the Primary Health Centre (PHC) located at Kathi, about 7 km from Bhagdari. The closest bank is at Molgi, about 8 km from Bhagdari.

3. MANGURDA

Mangurda is located in Kelapur tehsil of Yavatmal district, in the Scheduled Area of Maharashtra. Mangurda is a predominantly tribal village. It has a population of 1807 persons with 415 households, with an ST population of 1409 (77.97% of total). The nearest town is Pandharkawda which is 7 km from the village.

Mangurda is spread over a total geographical area of 2334.58 ha, of which 1026.35 ha is forest land. There are six tribal Kolam *pods* (hamlets) in Mangurda, three of which lie in the forest area. Kolam is the major tribe in the district. The average literacy rate of the village is 69.18%; male

77.91%, female 60.58%.

Mangurda's Gram Panchayat has nine elected representatives. It has a Joint Forest Management Committee, a Minor Forest Produce Committee, and around 17 SHGs. The village has three Zilla Parishad primary schools and five anganwadis. The health sub-centre is attached to the Primary Health Centre (PHC) located at Karanji, about 16 km from Mangurda.

The nearest banks are the State Bank of India, the District Central Cooperative Bank, HDFC, Central Bank, and the Bank of Maharashtra – all in Pandharkawda town.

ROAD CONNECTIVITY

1. JAWARLA

Jawarla is located at about 38 km from its tehsil headquarters in Kinwat. The nearest sub-centre of the PHC is 5 km away at Mandvi. During the monsoon, the Mandvi-Jawarla road would get cut off because of rivulets. Villagers could not access the health sub-centre in Mandvi or PHC in Kinwat for medical emergencies.

Before the village was adopted, the roadways were poor. The roads connecting Jawarla to Palshidag, Kazhipod and Mandvi were in bad shape. Farmers found it difficult to take their produce to the market in Kinwat.

Major Interventions:

As the connectivity of the road was critical for the health, education and progress of Jawarla, this aspect was given top priority.

A breakthrough occurred while discussing the issue with villagers – they mentioned that there once was a village road (via Ambadi village) of about 9 km length passing through forest land to an extent of about 6.44 km. Over the past two decades, it had gone into disuse. If the road was asphalted and revived, the distance between Jawarla and Kinwat would reduce to just 21 km, 17 km less than before. Naturally, there has been a long-pending demand for this road.

Taking into account the road's importance, the Governor held a meeting with the Secretaries of the Departments of Public Works (PW), Forests, and Finance and told them to prepare a proposal for the construction of this road and for obtaining necessary approvals from the Forest Department.



In view of these instructions, and due to the fact that many other villages would benefit from this shortened route, the Public Works Department (PWD) upgraded the Jawarla-Ambadi Road from a village road to a Major District Road. The agency also sanctioned ₹18.46 crore for upgrading 14.8 km of the road.

The Forest Department has also approved the proposal for diversion of 7.72 ha of forest land. The work is nearing completion now. This road will be a major boon to the village. It will reduce travel time from 1.5 hours to about 35 minutes.

The roads connecting Jawarla to Palshidag and Kazhipod have been repaired. The Mandvi-Jawarla road has been constructed as an all-weather road. Internal cement roads for Jawarla, Palshidag and Kazhipod have also been built.

The total expenditure on roads has been about ₹20 crore. This single act of

changing transport infrastructure in such a big way will transform the lives of these villagers. Students can now attend school during monsoons and health services can reach the villages throughout the year. The unemployed youth of Jawarla can also avail of job opportunities in Kinwat and Mandvi.

ROAD TO JOY

The construction of Jawarla-Kinwat Road via Ambadi Ghat is a success story in itself. The clearances for the road were obtained in a very short period and the road has become a reality due to the efforts of the Governor. The villagers are happy that the construction is in progress and soon it will enhance the economic well-being of the people.



2. BHAGDARI

Bhagdari village consists of 23 *padas* scattered across its length and breadth. The hilly topography of the Satpura range makes connecting all *padas* with each other and with the mainland a difficult task. Before the village got adopted, eight *padas* were connected to the main road by *pucca* roads, seven *padas* were connected by *kachcha* roads while the remaining eight had no road connectivity, making access to the facilities of the nearest town a difficult task.

As a result, students could not go to school during the rainy season. Farmers wanting to sell their produce faced extreme hardships as vehicles could not reach their farms. According to the Gram Sevak, it takes around 3-5 hours to traverse the 15-km stretch between the last *pada*, Vanvai, and the nearest town, Molgi.

Interventions:

The first step in transforming Bhagdari began with the convergence of multiple Central and State government schemes to carry out last mile connectivity of the *padas* with the mainland. Construction of new roads and repair of existing ones were undertaken under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, Mukhya Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, District Planning and Development Council (DPDC), and Tribal Component Scheme funds, etc.

The total budget allocated for the project is ₹20.1 crore. About 11 works with an estimate of ₹4.1 crore are complete, while 65 works worth ₹16 crore are in progress. Once finished, all *padas* in Bhagdari will have all-weather connectivity. Some salient achievements are as follows:

- Construction and repair of Molgi-Bhagdari Road has reduced travel time from 45 minutes to 10 minutes.
- Twelve *padas* are now connected by a *pucca* road.
- The distance between Singulivar and Molgi is now just 20 km, thanks to the construction of small bridges.
- Ambulances can now reach all *padas* during emergencies.

NETWORK SAVES LIVES

The reconstruction of the Bhagdari-Molgi Road was completed in July 2017. A year later, Bhansing's son who was bitten by a snake, could be rushed to the hospital at Molgi. The boy recovered after receiving prompt treatment. Bhansing credits the new road for saving his child's life.

3. MANGURDA

Prior to 2015, the situation was grim in Mangurda. The main connecting roads between Mangurda and the hamlets were not in good condition. People had to wade through water during monsoons to reach Shivnala *pod* (hamlet).

Building bridges

Funds from two government schemes were utilised to finance the projects – Thakkar

Bappa Integrated Tribal Habitation Development Scheme, known as Thakkar Bappa Yojana, and the Tribal Sub-Plan. Four roads were developed at a cost of ₹87 lakh.

The concreting of internal roads has come as a boon to the people. Not only has travel within the village become less hazardous, the construction of a bridge on the Mangurda-Shivnala Road has also given the people an all-weather road to Shivnala.



AGRICULTURE SECTOR

1. BHAGDARI

I) AGRICULTURE

In the year 2015, the area under cultivation was about 1171 ha. There were 17 wells and 8 borewells in the village. Due to water scarcity, only kharif crops could be cultivated. Two key issues reared their head – poor seed replacement rate and low rate of adoption of modern agronomic practices and mechanisation. As a result, crop production was low. To make matters worse, only 92 farmers had soil health cards.

Interventions

- The total water requirement of Bhagdari is estimated at 1769 TCM, but the capacity of water storage structures constructed prior to adoption of the village was only 431 TCM.
- Soil and water conservation were given top priority and accordingly, works worth ₹403 lakh were undertaken. This included cement *nullah* bunding (CNB), terracing, continuous contour trenching (CCT), farms, ponds, and *nullah* deepening. It is important to note here that the storage capacity created since 2015 is about 603 TCM. On account of these structures, there has been an increase in the water table level by about 1.3 m.
- In addition to this, 26 dug wells and 43 borewells were constructed over the past four years. Micro-irrigation was provided in 12 ha since 2015. Mechanisation was introduced by providing tractors to three beneficiaries

under the Unnat Sheti-Samruddh Shetkari Scheme of the State Government.

- The Governor requested the Vice Chancellors of State Agricultural Universities to take up intensive programmes aimed at doubling farm incomes. The District Administration in collaboration with the Mahatma Phule Krishi Vidyapeeth, Rahuri, conducted various training programmes for farmers to spread awareness about soil health, seed treatment, organic farming and vermicomposting, modern agronomic practices, horticulture, diversification of crops, and mixed farming. They were given good quality seeds for planting and 160 soil health cards were distributed. Convergence of schemes was utilised to bring maximum benefits to the farmers.
- Horticulture was almost non-existent in Bhagdari prior to its adoption by the Governor. Only mango, bamboo and *mahua* were cultivated on the farm *bunds* and boundaries in 35.2 ha of land. The area under fruit plantation has increased from 35.4 ha to 120.6 ha – of which about 74 ha growth is under mango. Farmers have started planting mango not only on the boundaries as they did earlier, but in a full-fledged manner on the entire field (block plantations). Mango, guava, *chikoo*, cashew and *mahua* cultivation is being promoted through

the auspices of various government schemes. Following the focused mango plantation drive, initiatives were taken under the National Rural Livelihood Mission to encourage production of quality *amchur*. Cultivation of cash crops like brinjal and chilli has increased from 7 ha to 21 ha.

Outcomes

The most noteworthy result from the above-mentioned initiatives is that cultivated area has skyrocketed from 1171 ha in 2015 to 1701 ha in 2019 (as per the District Administration's report). *Rabi* crops are sown in 198 ha of land now, a remarkable improvement considering only 64 ha were sown in 2015. The groundwater table level has risen by 1.3 m. Significant improvement in productivity of all crops has been observed. Overall, the agriculture of the village has seen positive transformation.

RICH RETURNS

Dilwarsing Vanya Valvi has a two-acre farm. One acre is dedicated to mangoes, while the rest is used for rice during the *kharif* season. Soil conservation works undertaken around his land has raised the water level in his borewell. Now he plans to plant *rabi* crops as well.

Raising Hadya Vasave planted turmeric on his two-acre farm. Before plantation, he used soil conservation and drip irrigation technology to prepare the land. He hopes this will bring in more income for his family.

II) ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

Farmers cannot rely only on crops for their income. Animal husbandry is a key way to boost earnings. Hence, a lot of emphasis has been laid on promoting dairy, poultry, and other livestock rearing. However, there were a couple of major factors preventing this from becoming a reality. One was the absence of a veterinary dispensary in the village. There wasn't even a facility to provide basic services such as vaccination and deworming of animals. Secondly, knowledge among the villagers about rearing of poultry and animals was poor because of which productivity suffered.

Interventions

- A veterinary dispensary was built, and immunisation and deworming of the animals were taken up as a regular practice.
- A livestock officer was appointed in 2015. Regular training programmes were conducted on goat rearing and poultry farming by the research stations of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR).
- The Tribal Development Department sanctioned three *pathadarshi* (model) backyard poultry projects with a budget of ₹9 lakh to set up three poultry units. These units were established by the District Administration with the guidance of the Maharashtra Animal and Fishery Sciences University. Women SHGs are in charge of running them. These projects have helped bring about a sea change in Bhagdari's attitude towards backyard poultry,



allowing it to become a thriving activity in the village. About 208 beneficiaries have been selected under the Swayam Project. They are being provided 45 chicks each in three phases.

- d) In Bhagdari, 156 cattle sheds were sanctioned under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA). So far, 95 have been completed while the rest will be done shortly. Earlier, the animals were kept inside the house which created unhygienic living conditions for the people and the livestock. Thanks to the construction of separate sheds for cattle, not only did the living conditions of the families get better, their health improved as well.

Outcomes

At present, 67.08% households are keeping cattle or goats and 47.96% households have adopted backyard poultry. Based on the success of this project in Bhagdari and the other two adopted villages, the Governor asked the State Government to launch a backyard poultry programme in all the Scheduled Area villages across the

Turmeric plantation was initiated on a pilot basis on the farms of four farmers with the support given by Jain Irrigation and Loksamanway (an NGO). They were provided with drip irrigation.

State. Accordingly, the State Government launched Swayam Project with a budget of ₹21 crore to cover all the villages in the Scheduled Areas of 13 districts.

Many of the households are now getting 1–2 litres of milk every day. Women SHGs are rearing Kadaknath poultry for the sale of eggs and birds. Bhagdari is thus serving as a model for other farmers from neighbouring villages to emulate.

GAINS IN REVENUE

Savitribai Padvi implemented the scheme of azolla (used as a bio-fertiliser and as livestock feed) and poultry farming. According to the District Administration, this has considerably raised the family income. Within three months, she earned ₹5000 from rearing poultry birds and ₹4000 from selling vegetables.

2. JAWARLA

1) AGRICULTURE

Prior to 2015, about 47% of Jawarla's geographical area was under cultivation, with about 54% of the population dependent on it for their livelihood. To increase agricultural output and income, a multi-pronged approach was taken after adoption of the village. Workshops and training programmes were conducted by Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Phokharni

to educate the farmers about improved agronomic practices, organic farming, crop diversification, and animal husbandry. About 40 farmers were trained intensively by the KVK.

Interventions:

- After adoption of the village, a water budget of the village was prepared.
- Watershed development works were undertaken through convergence of the schemes of Jalyukt Shivar Abhiyan (JSA), Agriculture Department, Water Supply Department, Forest Department, 5% of the Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP) fund, 14th Finance Commission, etc. The works include *nullah* deepening, well recharge, soak pits, forest ponds, farm ponds with mulching, and deep CCT. Aquifer recharge shafts were built near drinking water well at Jawarla, Palshidag and Kazhipod.
- To tackle the problem of water scarcity and reduce soil erosion, projects worth about ₹50 lakh were undertaken under JSA. Apart from this, the Forest Department had initiated a project for soil and water conservation and plantation at an estimated ₹87 lakh. This helped in improving the groundwater table and storage of run-off water.
- About 13 farm ponds with a storage capacity of 29 TCM were constructed at a cost of about ₹23 lakh. Under JYS, another 40 TCM storage capacity was created. Seventeen dug wells were constructed for irrigation purposes during this period.

- e) Ten farmers were provided oil pumps. Around 18 beneficiaries received farm implements amounting to ₹25,000 each. Drip and sprinkler sets were provided to 8 farmers at a cost of about ₹2.7 lakh.
- f) Two dal mills worth ₹3 lakh each were set up so as to enhance the incomes of farmers by value addition.
- g) Two vegetable farmers' groups were formed. The formation of farmers' groups under ATMA (Agricultural Technology Management Agency) and KVKs has cut out the middlemen and ensured a fair price for the produce.
- h) Pomegranate farming, along with drip irrigation, was started in a 3 ha area under the EGS Horticulture Planting Scheme by the Agriculture Department. Along with horticulture, vegetable production was also emphasised. Farmer groups responded positively to vegetable production. Looking at the good performance of the pomegranate crop, many farmers are expressing keen interest in taking up fruit crops, especially pomegranate and *sitaphal*.

In the past, Shanker Gedam sold his farm produce of *tur*, *moong* and black gram without processing. An exposure tour organised under ATMA opened his eyes to the benefits of processing. Now, he earns ₹6,435, significantly more than his earlier returns of ₹4,500.

Suresh Marshettiwar, a beneficiary, has gained a lot from the horticulture scheme. Earlier, he earned between ₹70,000 and ₹80,000 from his land. Now, his pomegranate cultivation is bearing fruit and production is around 12–15 tonnes/ha. At a market price of ₹30/kg, he may get a gross income of ₹5–6 lakh.

II) ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

Interventions and Outcomes:

The Tribal Development Department sanctioned one *pathadarshi* (model) backyard poultry project with a budget of ₹3 lakh. The 12-member Sonubai Mahila Bachat Gat (SHG) was chosen to manage the unit after a three-day training programme. This has provided self-employment to tribal women and generated a profit of ₹56,000 for the SHG.

Six milch animals were supplied, for which a subsidy of ₹5.25 lakh was provided. Expansion of allied activities has changed the attitude of farmers towards animal husbandry. Individual beneficiaries as well as groups have taken up animal rearing.



Maroti Mahadoo Kumare received two milch buffalos as a beneficiary. Prior to this, his financial condition was poor and he lived in a hut. Now, he sells milk to the villagers and earns a good amount of money.

3. MANGURDA

I) AGRICULTURE

Interventions and Outcomes:

- a) Awareness campaign and exposure visits were organised. Exposure visits enabled farmers from Mangurda village to interact with and learn from successful farmers.
- b) Utilising the financial support of ATMA, a group of 30 farmers were given training in the year 2015–16 and another group of 25 farmers were provided training in 2016–17 on various aspects of crop production and modern agronomic practices. A group of 50 farmers formed the Adarsh Sendriya

Shetkari Gat. Soil health cards were issued to 143 farmers.

- c) Mangurda village is prone to water shortage and it becomes more acute during summer season. To address the issue of water shortage in the village, five Cement Nala Bunds (CNB) were repaired and three CNBs were deepened in the year 2016–17. There were only two wells before 2015 in Mangurda village. Today, 10 new wells have been constructed after the village was adopted by the Governor.
- d) There were five farm ponds prior to 2015. 15 new farm ponds (30x25x9ft) have been constructed during 2015–19.
- e) 32 farmers were provided financial assistance for purchase of agricultural tools, diesel pumpset, pipes, and motor pump.

II) ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

Interventions and Outcomes:

- a) As per livestock census 2011, there were 1945 animals in Mangurda. After adoption of the village, three buffaloes,



275 goats and 500 poultry birds were supplied to the villagers.

- b) The Tribal Development Department sanctioned one *pathadarshi* (model) backyard poultry project with a budget of ₹3 lakh. The Shri Ganesh Tribal Woman SHG was entrusted with the responsibility of managing this unit. They have successfully reared 500 egg-laying birds, earning a revenue of ₹2 lakh over the last three years. In addition to this, with the help of an egg incubator provided by the Department, the SHG has been rearing Kaweri birds successfully.
- c) The Integrated Tribal Development Office, Pandarkawda, distributed 10 female goats (doe) and one male goat (buck) to 24 beneficiaries and also two goat units to a group of unwed mothers. The project was financed through TSP.

BUSINESSWOMAN

Manisha Vitthal Atram worked in the fields as a daily wager. After getting a loan from the SHG, she started her own business of goat rearing and selling. But because she lacked knowledge, her earnings suffered seriously. After receiving training on rearing and vaccination of goats, and with proper health care, her income has amplified from ₹9,000 to ₹40,000 in just two years.

- d) Under Kamdhenu Dattak Gram Yojana, the village organised animal health check-up camps, infertility and pregnancy diagnosis camps, farmers' field visit to Warora dairy farm, fodder awareness programme, inferior forage improvement training, azolla cultivation training, etc.
- e) The Mahila Vikas Mahamandal distributed chaff cutters to eight progressive farmers to help them with fodder consumption.

HOUSING FOR ALL

1. BHAGDARI

In May 2015, Bhagdari had 809 Below Poverty Line (BPL) households, of which only 198 BPL families had proper houses. The remainder (611) lived in dilapidated structures that leaked during the rains and exposed them to unhygienic conditions, reptiles, etc.

Casualties due to snake bites were common. In all, there were 1099 families without a *pucca* house.

After adoption, priority was accorded to building *pucca* houses for all eligible households. Under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G) and Shabri Gharkul Yojana of the State Government (tribal families that are not on the BPL list), 472 houses worth ₹2.75 crore have been sanctioned under this scheme. After completion, 79% of the BPL families will own a proper home. The PMAY-G construction has been converged with MGNREGA.

A HAPPY HOME

Singa Sela Vasave from Umbilapada got a house under the PMAY. Before that, the family lived in a *kachcha* house. They bathed and defecated in the open and were always afraid of being bitten by insects and snakes. He says their new house, fitted with a bathroom and toilet, has changed their lives for the better.

2. JAWARLA

Jawarla's Gram Panchayat submitted a list of 104 shelter-less villagers. All these cases were sanctioned under various schemes, namely, PMAY, Shabari Awas Yojana, Ramai Gharkul Yojana. All 104 beneficiaries have completed the construction of their houses. The PMAY construction has been converged with MGNREGA.



SWACHCH BHARAT

3. MANGURDA

According to the Gram Panchayat's survey, Mangurda 2011, there were 238 *pucca* houses and 192 *kachcha* houses in the village. Since 2015, about 165 houses have been sanctioned, of which 122 have been completed and 43 are in progress.

At the time, it was observed that most of the houses sanctioned were in an incomplete condition. Immediately after adoption of the village, construction of the incomplete houses was speeded up.

Villagers who have been supported through the housing schemes expressed satisfaction because they now have a proper roof over their heads. Since many of the beneficiaries are tribal, funds from the Tribal Sub-Plan were sanctioned for housing. Also, in cases where government land was encroached for housing, the same has been regularised. A further survey

was conducted for those whose names were not included in the SECC (Socio-Economic and Caste Census) list, and 323 names have been registered for the PMAY. This proposal is under consideration of the State Government.

HOME SWEET HOME

Madhukar Rambhau Raut's family of six went through many hardships, especially during the monsoon, since they did not have a proper house. They were allocated a home under the PMAY in 2016-17. Raut says that after getting a permanent home, their financial condition has improved as the cost of health care for the family declined.



1. BHAGDARI

- In Bhagdari, open defecation was widely prevalent and only 1.7% of households i.e. 25 families out of 1506 had toilet facilities prior to 2015. Women suffered greatly as they could not relieve themselves during daylight. Hygiene standards were poor and the villagers' health suffered.
- At the time of the baseline survey, 913 beneficiaries were identified under the Swachch Bharat Mission. A budget of ₹150 lakh was allocated for construction of toilets. As on this day, 1163 households have toilets, which means 77.2% of the total have toilets. Of the remaining 343 households, work is in progress in 181.
- Information, Education and Communication (IEC) campaigns were conducted to educate villagers about hygiene habits, such as washing hands before meals and after defecation.
- The villagers' hygiene habits have also improved vastly – 72.41% wash their hands before meals with soap and 78.37% do so after using the toilet.

2. JAWARLA

- In Jawarla, only 46 out of 336 households had access to toilets in 2015. As a result, open defecation was rampant.
- To address this problem, toilets were constructed for 245 families under Swachch Bharat Abhiyan. 22 families built toilets on their own. 100 soak pits were constructed for hygienic sewage disposal, thereby reducing risk of water contamination and outbreaks of diseases in the village. These works were carried out in convergence with MGNREGA, thus serving a dual purpose of unskilled employment generation for the villagers.
- The most positive development has been the behavioural change of the villagers. The village is now ODF. This was made possible due to the widespread awareness created in the village through rallies, weekly *sabhas*, painting competitions on Swachchta, Swachchta Pakhwada, etc. Students were motivated to act as change agents and ensure that no one defecates in the open.



DRINKING WATER



3. MANGURDA

- The majority of the people in Mangurda belong to Scheduled Tribes and did not have toilets because of superstitions. These deep-rooted beliefs were so ingrained that villagers were not willing to construct or use toilets in their house premises. It was a difficult task to convince them of the benefits of a good sanitation system. The Swachh Bharat Mission has worked well in the village. In 2015-16, a total of 112 toilets were constructed, followed by another 107 in 2016-17. Finally, 2017-18 saw the whole village become ODF when 109 toilets were constructed in the last phase.
- Many awareness programmes were conducted on the need for toilets, and

the harm that open defecation brings to individuals and the village as a whole. House visits were made by Panchayat Samiti officials to explain the purpose and potential benefits of sanitation facilities. A 'good morning' team was formed, comprising government officers, members of women self-help groups, and anganwadi workers. They gave flowers to the people who were in the habit of defecating outside, thus making it uncomfortable for them to continue this practice.

- With the coordinated efforts of all departments, the village has been declared ODF. To sustain it as ODF in the longer run, students are being educated about the importance of self-hygiene and cleanliness of their surroundings.

1. BHAGDARI

Before Bhagdari's adoption, the villagers of some *padas* had to walk about 1-2 km to fetch clean drinking water. Three *padas* had no hand pumps and their main source of drinking water was springs or lakes. There were 10 public wells but villagers did not use this water as it was unclean. As the wells were not cleaned, the water was not fit for drinking. Women suffered the most as they had to travel longer distances to get clean drinking water for their families. 85 hand pumps were scattered across 20 *padas*. There were only two solar dual pumps for water supply; they covered just two *padas* and that too not completely.

Interventions:

- 95 new hand pumps have been installed. As a result, all the *padas*, barring three, have got nine hand pumps on average.
- 16 solar dual pumps have been installed. These pumps lift water to the overhead tank from where it reaches taps through pipelines. Each tap provides water for around 15-20 families. Now, around 300 families get tap water near their homes.
- In Koldarapada, which lies at a higher altitude and houses 40 families, hand pumps became dysfunctional after February for roughly five months. An electric motor pump was hence installed and water is now being lifted from the foothill.

QUENCHING THEIR THIRST

A solar pump has been set up at Olapada, along with three public standposts at different locations. Nearly 35 families have benefited from this scheme, as well as the Zilla Parishad school at Olapada.

- The existing 10 wells are being cleaned regularly. These wells now provide an additional source of drinking water for the people of Bhagdari.

With all the above interventions, at present, sufficient water is available for almost all the families within a 200m radius. This has greatly helped the women and children of the village, allowing them to save their time and energy for other productive activities.

2. JAWARLA

As water-borne diseases are prevalent in the village, an RO plant of 500 L/hr has been set up which ensures supply of purified drinking water to all the villagers. A water ATM is operational next to the RO plant. Water is priced at ₹5 per 20 litres.

About ₹42 lakh was spent to strengthen the water distribution system, provide water supply to all the *padas*, and enhance water supply. The major source of funding was under the 5% fund of TSP. To increase



water supply, wells were deepened and additional borewells were dug. These measures ensured that there is guaranteed water supply to all the habitatants of Jawarlar.

3. MANGURDA

There are six Kolam *pod*s (hamlets) in Mangurda and the sources of water are wells and hand pumps. When these sources go dry in summer, drinking water scarcity is felt acutely. The villagers had to trudge long distances to obtain water and much time and energy was spent on this daily activity. This caused a lot of hardship for the women and children who were primarily involved in the task.

Interventions:

- a) After adoption of the village by the Governor, District Administration gave top priority to address all the issues related to drinking water.

- b) Various projects were taken up to cover all the habitatants.
- c) In Mangurda village, a new water source was developed and with the help of an ESR of 50,000 L, a piped water supply system has been developed which can provide tap water to all the households. A similar project has been executed in Shivnala *pod*. There were two hand pumps and one well in Netaji *pod* for a population of 136. To provide enough water for the people, when the well runs dry, a pipeline was laid to bring water from Mangurda. This has eliminated the scarcity during dry periods. Gaon *pod* always had a scarcity of drinking water in summer even though there are two hand pumps and one well for its population of 196. A pipeline was built to draw supply from Mangurda to homes in this area and the problem of shortage has been resolved.



Mangurda Pipe Water Supply Scheme, completed at an expenditure of ₹62,62,700

ELECTRIFICATION

1. BHAGDARI

In May 2015, only 12 out of 23 *padas* were electrified and each of these *padas* had a transformer, 11 KV high tension line, and 440 V low tension line. However, out of a total of 1508 households, only 75 had electricity connections. After adoption of the village, the District Administration made a provision of ₹2.11 crore to create necessary infrastructure for transmission and distribution of electricity to all *padas*.

A provision of around ₹11.5 lakh was made to provide electricity to all households. Currently, all 23 *padas* of Bhagdari have been electrified and around 1254 households (83% households) have been supplied electricity under the Pradhan Mantri Saubhagya Har Ghar Bijali Yojana. One LED bulb has been given to each household under the scheme. Solar street lights have been installed and solar lamps have been distributed to families. Five solar

agriculture pumps have been supplied to agriculturists at a cost of ₹16.2 lakh.

The lifestyle of the villagers has improved considerably due to electrification of households. Incidents of snakebites and wild animal attacks have reduced and communication with other villages has improved.

One or two families in almost every *pada* has established a flour mill, generating additional income for themselves. Farming activities have been given an impetus due to the use of agriculture pumps.

2. JAWARLA

Though all three *padas* of the village were electrified earlier, only 120 families out of a total of 311 had metered connections. The electric poles needed repair. Most of the streets were devoid of street lights. The single-phase, two-wire supply



LPG CONNECTIONS (UJJWALA YOJANA)

system caused frequent breakdowns due to overloading. All this had a debilitating effect on the village. Agricultural output suffered as it was not possible to run pumps for irrigation.

The village lacked any agro-processing units as a regular supply of electricity is required to run it. The health sub-centre also faced blackouts in times of medical emergencies.

Post adoption of the village, the electricity infrastructure was upgraded by: setting up an 11 KV- 8 km long express feeder line, 28 new poles, three-phase five-wire units, LED street lights at a cost of ₹ 3 lakh, and 20 solar street lights in two *padas*.

Consistent supply of electricity has helped in proper functioning of the dal mills, flour mills, honey processing units, and other small processing units.

3. MANGURDA

Mangurda previously had 22 electric poles and 242 connections. A lone transformer supplied electricity to all these connections, including the water supply line. Any breakdown on the feeder line of the transformer affected the whole village. Since the load was high, interruptions were frequent. While there were 14 street lights, most were not functional, so the roads were unsafe after dark.

By providing additional transformers, 72 household connections have been created and with that, all the households in the village now have an electricity connection. The water supply system has its own dedicated electricity connection. Existing street lights have been repaired and 35 additional street lights have been installed.

In Jawarla, prior to 2015, only 49 households had LPG connections. Post adoption, 140 households have been provided connections under Ujjwala Yojana and 122 households through the Forest Department. At present, all 311 households have clean cooking fuel.

In Mangurda, 270 households have LPG connections, of which 60 are under the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana, 180 under the State Forest Department scheme, and 30 by the people themselves.

In Bhagdari, about 331 households now have LPG connections.



Electricity connection to agri-pumps.



HEALTH

Health camps serve two vital functions – creating awareness about disease and bringing medical aid to people living in areas that do not have regular access to welfare centres. But in order to provide medical relief to people, the physical infrastructure of the health centre needs to be satisfactory. Special attention was thus given not just to improving the physical infrastructure, but the service delivery mechanism as well.

Interventions:

- a) The sub-centre at Mangurda was in a shabby state. The building in general and the clinic rooms specifically were poorly maintained and the water supply was not clean. Once the village was adopted by the Governor, the entire building was renovated and a clean water supply system was provided. This paved the way to holding health and diagnostic camps for Mangurda villagers.
- b) Health education: Awareness and training camps were held for adolescent

girls in the 11–19 years age group. Various aspects related to gender discrimination, diet and nutrition, personal hygiene, use of sanitary pads, and communicable diseases such as RTI/STD/HIV/AIDS were discussed. The girls were also made aware of health department schemes related to maternal health. Similar awareness sessions were also held for women up to the age of 40. There's been a substantial drop in the number of anaemia deficiency, RTI, and STD cases after the camp.

- c) Health check-up and Diagnostic camps were held in all three villages to screen for overall health in general and also specifically for cancer, diabetes, cardiovascular, stroke and eye check-up. The patients requiring secondary and tertiary care were provided with necessary assistance.
- d) In Mangurda, based on a survey conducted by the government, 313 families have been included in the Ayushman Bharat scheme. Letters have been handed over to them on the basis of which they can apply for E-cards that will help them avail health services. So far, 23 people have availed the services under the scheme.



TACKLING MALNUTRITION

Under the APJ Abdul Kalam Amrut Aahar Yojana, which was started at the behest of the Governor, nutritious food like eggs and bananas are being provided to children and one full meal per day is being given to expectant women and nursing mothers in all three villages.

1. BHAGDARI

There were nine anganwadis in the village, but they lacked a proper infrastructure.

Interventions:

- a) After adoption, five new anganwadis were constructed, bringing the total to 14.
- b) Toilet facilities were set up or renovated in all the anganwadis. Kitchen gardens were started in 13 centres, through which a continuous supply of vegetables was ensured.
- c) Sports equipment has been supplied to three anganwadis and the rest will get it within a year.
- d) Lupin Foundation has set up digital facilities at the anganwadis and had the walls painted colourfully to attract children.
- e) As part of the Poshan Abhiyan, due care is being taken to provide supplementary nutrition and health care to SAM and MAM children.
- f) It is being ensured that vaccinations are administered regularly and health screening is done periodically for infants and children to identify any health-related deficiencies.

- g) Awareness sessions are being organised periodically to educate young girls and women about health and nutrition.

2. JAWARLA

Jawarla has four anganwadis. In 2014–15, about 20% of the children were underweight and one child was in SAM condition. Only one anganwadi was ISO certified at that time.

Interventions:

Since the adoption of the village, various measures have been taken to improve the anganwadi centres:

- a) Construction of compound walls and painting of anganwadis.
- b) ISO certification.
- c) Initiating activity-based learning for students.
- d) Providing digital facilities to make pre-schooling more interesting and effective.
- e) IEC activities such as nutrition week, breastfeeding awareness, etc., were held to disseminate information on nutrition, health, education, hygiene, etc.
- f) The combined effect of all these interventions is the reduction in the percentage of underweight children from 20% in 2015 to 3.19% in 2019. The village is free of SAM/MAM children. To top it off, the daily attendance of students in anganwadis has improved.

SCHOOL EDUCATION

Union Ministry of Women and Child Development started Poshan Abhiyan in the country and declared September 2018 as 'Poshan Maah'. Under Poshan Maah different awareness activities are being conducted



Poshan Abhiyan rally in Bhagdari

Adolescent girls nutritional counselling session at Bhagdari

3. MANGURDA

The interventions in Mangurda are akin to those explained in the earlier paras. Overall, there is a significant improvement in the nutritional status of women and children.



1. BHAGDARI

In May 2015, there were 11 primary level Zilla Parishad schools, one private secondary school, and one government residential school run by the State Tribal Department. Although basic infrastructure existed, it was not backed by quality education. Sports and cultural activities were almost non-existent. Toilets were in bad shape, so many girls dropped out of school. Overall, the enrolment ratio was low and student attendance was poor.

To improve the quality of education in Bhagdari, an e-learning facility was established at Dongrafali Zilla Parishad School on a pilot basis, and three more digital schools have since been sanctioned. Sports equipment has been supplied to all Zilla Parishad schools. The school buildings have been painted, a cultural hall has been constructed under the Tribal Sub-Plan, and a public library-cum-reading hall has been set up at Mahupali Pada.

Because of the initiatives, student enrolment rate has increased from 81% in 2014-15 to 96% in 2018-19. The improved infrastructure has contributed to a significant reduction in the dropout rate of adolescent girls. A rise of 20% in SMC members and 10% in the number of SMC meetings indicate that parents are becoming more involved in the education of their children. It has been reported by the District Administration that according to a survey, the literacy rate in the age group 6-18 years has increased to 89.57%, which is more than current tehsil and district literacy rates.

2. JAWARLA

Under the Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar Tal Jawarla, there were two schools, one run by the Zilla Parishad with 66 students, and another run by the Tribal Development Department with 212 students. Both schools required improvements in quality and infrastructure. After adoption, various tasks were undertaken to upgrade the schools.

Improvements in the tribal ashram school were taken up by improving the physical infrastructure at a cost of ₹90 lakh and by setting up a computer and digital lab at a cost of ₹5 lakh. An RO water purifier was also provided in this school.

Under the Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Talent Development Programme, extra classes were conducted for 20 students. Books were distributed free of cost to students. There have also been active efforts to improve adult literacy in the village. From the village, 42 newly literate appeared for the basic literacy examination, and six students appeared for Navodaya.

There has been a substantial improvement in educational indicators because of the interventions undertaken after the adoption of the village.

Student enrolment has risen from 67% in 2015 to 81% in 2019. The overall infrastructure of the schools has also improved. It is hoped that this will increase school attendance, boost the quality of education, and help in attaining the target of universal elementary education for all children in the village.

FOREST RIGHTS



3. MANGURDA

Mangurda has three Zilla Parishad schools; one each in proper Mangurda village, Shivnala *pod* and Makurda *pod*. The Mangurda School has classes from standards 1–8. In Shivnala and Makurda, the classes are from standards 1–5. Since Mangurda is a tribal village, most of the students are first-time learners. Infrastructure was in a bad state, so the children were not enthusiastic about attending classes. Enrolment was low and attendance was barely 75%.

The villagers wanted to make education a priority, so the plan was financed with funding from the 14th Finance Commission and funds received under 5% TSP. By merging several schemes, the infrastructure of the schools was upgraded and all essentials were duly provided. The

physical infrastructure was improved in all three Zilla Parishad schools by renovating the buildings and providing clean water and toilets. In addition to this, digital classrooms have been set up. Students are being given two sets of uniforms, midday meals, free books, and scholarships.

Outcomes are as follows:

- The Mangurda School's rating has improved from C+ to B+.
- Student attendance is now at 95%.
- Girls participated in the kabaddi competition at the district level in 2015–16.
- In a state-level cultural programme, the school ranked second in community dance form in 2015–16.
- Nine students who had shifted to private schools returned to the Zilla Parishad school.

1. BHAGDARI

In Bhagdari, about 1037.93 ha of the land (37.5%) is forested area. A large section of the people are dependent on forests for their livelihood. However, as most of them do not have documented rights, their ability to consume and earn from forest produce was limited. Rampant felling of trees for fuel and other purposes had led to deforestation.

Post adoption, a number of initiatives were undertaken to settle the claims for individual and community forest rights and to create livelihood opportunities. One important achievement is that individual forest rights (IFR) were granted to 574 families, while 12 *padas* were given community forest rights (CFR) over 275 ha.

To control deforestation, the forest department conducted a plantation drive. Approximately 1.64 lakh seedlings were planted, consisting largely of mango, *mahua*, *behda*, bamboo and *amla*. LPG connections were given to 103 families by the Forest Department so that illicit cutting of trees could be prevented. A nursery has been set up in the village with over 1.3 lakh plants under the MGNREGA.

As a majority of the cases under the IFR and CFR are granted to the people, there is a strong impact on their empowerment. With the establishment of community rights, regulated grazing has become viable on community land. Bamboo and other Minor Forest Produce (MFP) have fetched a significant income to the Gram Sabhas. The peoples' involvement in these

developmental processes has brought a strong element of sustainability into these processes.

2. JAWARLA

The forest cover in Jawarla is about 48%. This forest area comes under the jurisdiction of the Forest Development Corporation of Maharashtra. Most of the tribal population is dependent on the forest for their sustenance. Since the adoption of the village, rights were granted in: 25 IFR cases involving an area of 26.9 ha, cases for housing amounting to 4 ha, and CFR in 354 ha.



3. MANGURDA

Mangurda Gram Panchayat has used MFP for generating incomes. In the year 2015–16, with the help of the Forest Department, and thereafter the Forest Resource Management Committee, locals have been able to collect and auction *tendu* on their own by organising an auction process with the help of the Zilla Parishad. Sale of MFP has given them an economic value of ₹5.6 lakh on average in the last three years.

LIVELIHOOD GENERATION

1. BHAGDARI

In May 2015, Bhagdari had 69 SHGs with a total strength of 594 members. But administration of the SHGs was ineffective and the groups were not financially viable. As a result, the monthly savings were not sufficient to extend loans to the members, which hindered development of the village. To make matters worse, financial literacy was poor – so much so that SHGs could not take advantage of government funding schemes.

The Maharashtra State Rural Livelihood Mission (MSRLM) is currently being implemented in Bhagdari. A Revolving Fund (RF) of ₹6,30,000 has been provided to 42 SHGs over the past four years. Well-functioning SHGs are being awarded ₹50,000 under the community investment fund. A Micro Investment Plan has been worked out whereby each family's source of income is studied and those eligible for benefits under various schemes are being helped to get them.

In Bhagdari, two organisations have been formed, namely Tulsi Mata and Umeed, to oversee all the SHGs and make recommendations. Start-up funds have been given to be utilised in an emergency. Through MSRLM, village organisations have received ₹36,000 which they can lend to those members wanting to set up kitchen gardens. Campaigns and training programmes have been conducted to promote goat rearing. A trained livestock manager has been appointed to carry out

immunisation and other such services. The farmers are being taught home remedies for treating livestock.

Implementation of MSRLM has strengthened the functioning of SHGs. At present, Bhagdari has 81 SHGs with 850 members. During the last four years, ₹9,50,000 has been given to various SHGs under the Community Investment Fund. This has further improved the financial strength of the SHGs. The kitchen garden initiative has succeeded, with 60 members opting for it. Goat rearing has taken off in a big way among the villagers.

2. JAWARLA

In Jawarla, 10 SHGs are functioning. Two Farmer Producer Organisations have been formed and were given ₹3 lakh as financial assistance to set up dal mills. A honey processing unit has been set up through the Forest Department. Raw honey collected from the forest is being processed and is now being sold under the brand name 'Kinwit Honey'. So far, around 450 kg of honey has been collected and processed, generating an income of ₹1,47,000. Processing units for *laddu*, chips, and soya milk have been given by the Agriculture Department to women farmers in the village. Twenty beneficiaries were trained to run a food business. A unit for making bangles from lac has been set up by the Forest Department at an expenditure of ₹4.55 lakh.



3. MANGURDA

Under the Human Development Programme, financial assistance is provided as a one-time grant by the State Government to the selected Gram Sabhas for assisting them in the process of livelihood generation. Using convergence approach, the funds received under this programme was utilised for the process of setting up a unit of collection, processing and sale of MFP like *mohful*, lac and *dink*.



THE PROJECT WORKS

A pilot project on backyard poultry was implemented by three SHGs at Bhagdari. Two were provided a 900 sq. ft. shed for poultry birds. Since then, members have been getting a steady income from the sale of eggs and birds.

PESA FUNDS

Exercising powers conferred under Para 5 (1) of the Fifth Schedule of the Constitution of India, the Governor issued directives to modify the provisions of Maharashtra Village Panchayat Act in 2014. A clause was inserted stating that “Gram Panchayats and Gram Sabhas shall be competent to exercise control over local plans and resources for such plan including the Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP), provided that not less than 5% of the total TSP funds of the respective annual plan shall be devolved to the Gram Panchayats in Scheduled Areas in proportion to their population.”

The fund allocated to a village is in proportion to the population of the tribal people. The funds received by Bhagdari, Jawarla and Mangurda, for the period 2015-19 is ₹144.50 lakh, ₹27.95 lakh, and

₹27.36 lakh, respectively. The importance of this fund lies in its untied nature as it is directly released to the village by the state without any intermediaries. It has enabled decentralized planning in the village and increased the participation of people in the planning process. Most of the works taken up in these three villages have been in the areas of education, health, strengthening of anganwadis, drinking water supply, street lights, LED bulbs, internal roads, etc. The funds under the 14th Finance Commission were utilised to supplement the 5% of TSP fund. As the decision making is at the Gram Sabha level, the overall functioning of the Gram Sabhas and Gram Panchayats has improved and similarly, their coordination with government departments is also improving.



SOCIO-CULTURAL INFRASTRUCTURE

SPORTS COMPLEX AT JAWARLA

During the Governor's interaction with villagers at Jawarla, the villagers demanded a well-equipped Sports Complex in the village with facilities for track and field events. On the advice of the Governor, the District Administration sanctioned a fund of ₹1 crore for this project through the District Planning Council funds. The Public Works Department began construction of the Sports Complex in 2018-19.

The construction has since been completed. The Sports Complex consists of a 200 m Jogging Track, Kabaddi arena, Kho-Kho ground, and a Volleyball stadium. There are facilities for the storage of sports equipment, toilets, and separate changing rooms for girls and boys.

The Sports Complex is big enough to organize tehsil-level sports competitions. There are plans to provide training to the youth in various sports at the Complex.

CULTURAL HALL AT BHAGDARI

A Sanskritik Bhavan (Cultural Complex) has been constructed at Bhagdari, using funds from the Tribal Sub-Plan under the scheme Construction of Sanskritik Bhavan. Budgetary provision of ₹67.99 lakh was earmarked and the works department of Zilla Parishad Nandurbar was asked to execute the project. The Sanskritik Bhavan was completed in 2018-19.

The two-storeyed Cultural Hall has been equipped with a kitchen facility on the ground floor and a hall on the first floor. Two rooms have also been provided at the rear of the building.

This hall will be useful for community programmes, as well as social and traditional activities organised by the tribal community.



Sarpanch of Jawarala and people's representatives from the village meet Governor Ch. Vidyasagar Rao at Raj Bhavan, Mumbai



THE WAY FORWARD

What began as an idea in 2014 has turned into an extraordinary story of progress through hard work and determination. The Governor's main purpose behind adopting these villages was to turn them into self-reliant models of development. The initiative as a whole was meant to have a demonstrative impact on other villages in the Scheduled Areas, as indeed the large majority of those outside the Scheduled Areas.

While the progress made in certain sectors of development was impressive, in some areas it was moderate. Since the basic strategy behind this initiative is based on the principles of convergence of all governmental schemes, active participation, and involvement of villagers in planning, as well as implementation and close interactions between the administration and the people, it is expected that the development achieved so far is going to be sustainable.

The delivery of public service has improved in all three villages remarkably. Circle officials of various departments, for instance, gather in Bhagdari on one particular day to provide single window services pertaining to issuing various certificates, sanctioning of applications for various individual beneficiary oriented schemes, and social assistance programmes. Similar programmes are being organised in Jawarla and Mangurda on a regular basis.

It is expected that the development achieved in the adopted villages will be sustained with the willing and active participation of all stakeholders. A roadmap has been charted out and a strong foundation for village transformation has been laid. It will certainly help in achieving accelerated progress of the villages in the times to come.