CSR Partner

BJS Bharatiya Jain Sanghatana | FINOLEX PIPES & FITTINGS | Mukul Madhav Foundation Established 1999

Rejuvenation of

SAUTADA PERCOLATION TANK

Beed District



Supported by

Mukul Madhav Foundation

INTERIM PROGRESS REPORT

May - June 2026

Bharatiya Jain Sanghatna



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1.0 Executive Summary

The Rejuvenation of Waterbodies project, implemented by Bhartiya Jain Sanghatana (BJS) in partnership with Mukul Madhav Foundation (MMF), commenced during the reporting period of **May –June 2026** with the objective of restoring the Sautada Percolation Tank in Patoda Taluka, Beed district. The intervention seeks to improve water storage capacity, enhance groundwater recharge and strengthen water security for surrounding farming communities.

During the reporting period, the project progressed from strategic planning to field implementation. Key milestones included the formalisation of the partnership through the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), completion of technical and geospatial assessments, receipt of administrative approvals, deployment of project branding and community awareness activities, mobilisation of field teams and commencement of desilting operations.

Field implementation began on **26 May 2026** with the deployment of three earthmoving machines. By **5 June 2026**, a total of **8,562 cu.m of silt** had been excavated from the Sautada Percolation Tank before operations were temporarily suspended due to the onset of the monsoon. The excavated silt was voluntarily transported by local farmers to their agricultural fields, demonstrating strong community participation while simultaneously contribFWuting to improved soil quality and agricultural productivity.

The progress achieved during this reporting period establishes a strong foundation for the successful completion of the intervention in the post-monsoon season while reinforcing the collaborative commitment of BJS, MMF, local administration and the community towards sustainable water resource management.

1.1 Program Snapshot

Indicator	Progress Achieved
Waterbodies under implementation	1
Earthmoving machines deployed	3
District Programme Officer appointed	1
Field Associate appointed	1
GIS assessment completed	✓
Administrative approvals secured	✓
Memorandum of Understanding signed	✓
Community awareness campaign conducted	✓
Octopus monitoring system operational	✓
Total silt excavated	8,562 cu.m
Project Status	Temporarily suspended due tomonsoon

1.2 Key Achievements during reporting period

The reporting period marked the successful transition of the project from planning to field implementation.

Key achievements include:

- Formalisation of the partnership between BJS and Mukul Madhav Foundation through the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding.
- Completion of technical assessments, GIS analysis and field validation for the selected intervention site.
- Securing statutory approvals from the district administration prior to commencement of field activities.
- Deployment of project branding and implementation of a community awareness campaign through Prachar Rath.
- Establishment of a dedicated field implementation and digital monitoring system using the Octopus App.
- Mobilisation of three earthmoving machines and commencement of desilting operations at the Sautada Percolation Tank.
- Excavation of **8,562 cubic metres** of accumulated silt during the reporting period.
- Active participation of local farmers in transporting excavated silt for productive agricultural use.

1.3 Introduction

This report presents the progress achieved under the Rejuvenation of Waterbodies Project implemented by Bhartiya Jain Sanghatana (BJS) in partnership with Mukul Madhav Foundation (MMF) during the reporting period of May–June 2026.

The reporting period marked the transition of the project from planning to on-ground implementation. Key activities undertaken included technical assessment of the selected waterbody, stakeholder consultations, administrative approvals, execution planning, deployment of communication and awareness initiatives, mobilisation of field teams and commencement of desilting operations at the Sautada Percolation Tank.

The project aims to restore the storage capacity of the waterbody, enhance groundwater recharge and improve long-term water availability for agriculture and surrounding communities. This report provides an overview of the progress made across planning, implementation and stakeholder engagement activities undertaken during the reporting period.

1.3.1 Strategic Partnership Discussions between Bhartiya Jain Sanghatana and Mukul Madhav Foundation

The partnership between Bhartiya Jain Sanghatana (BJS) and Mukul Madhav Foundation (MMF) was initiated through strategic discussions between Shri Shantilal Muttha, Founder of BJS, and Mrs. Ritu Chhabria, Co-founder and Managing Trustee of MMF, during their meeting in London.

The discussions focused on the growing need for sustainable water conservation interventions in drought-prone regions and the role of watershed restoration in strengthening rural livelihoods. Shri. Shantilal ji Muttha shared BJS's experience of implementing large-scale waterbody rejuvenation initiatives across India since 2013, highlighting the long-term benefits of restoring community water resources for improving groundwater recharge, and village water security.

The meeting established a shared vision between both organisations and laid the foundation for a collaborative partnership centred on sustainable water resource management. Following these discussions, both organisations agreed to explore a joint intervention in the Marathwada region, leading to the conceptualisation of the Rejuvenation of Waterbodies project.

1.3.2 Joint Planning and Finalisation of the Project Waterbody

Following the strategic partnership discussions, the CSR team from Mukul Madhav Foundation visited the BJS Headquarters in Pune to gain a comprehensive understanding of BJS's water conservation initiatives and implementation approach.

The team visited the BJS Water War Room, where they were introduced to the technical planning, monitoring mechanisms and execution framework adopted for large-scale waterbody rejuvenation programmes. These interactions enabled a shared understanding of the programme methodology and implementation processes.

Subsequent joint discussions focused on identifying a suitable intervention site within the Marathwada region. Based on technical assessments, field observations and implementation feasibility, the organisations jointly evaluated potential waterbodies across Beed and Jalna districts.

The discussions culminated in the selection of the **Sautada Percolation Tank** for implementation. The selection was guided by multiple considerations, including the existing condition of the waterbody, its groundwater recharge potential, anticipated benefits to surrounding farming communities, implementation feasibility and the ability to initiate work before the onset of the monsoon.

Following the selection, BJS undertook detailed field surveys, completed technical assessments and secured the necessary statutory approvals to facilitate timely commencement of project activities.



Fig 1 - MMF CSR team at the BJS Water War Room, 18 April 2026

1.3.3 Joint Field Assessments by BJS and MMF

To validate the technical feasibility of the proposed intervention, representatives from BJS and MMF undertook joint field visits to **Dongarkinhi, Sautada and Shikharwadi** waterbodies on **6–7 May 2026**.

The visits included site inspections, interactions with local stakeholders and assessment of key technical parameters such as silt accumulation, catchment characteristics, machinery accessibility and the anticipated impact of rejuvenation on groundwater recharge and irrigation support.

The joint assessment provided both organisations with a shared understanding of site conditions and implementation requirements while validating the technical suitability of the proposed intervention. Based on these assessments, the **Sautada Percolation Tank** was finalised as the project site due to its significant restoration potential and anticipated benefits for the surrounding communities.



Fig 2- Shikharwadi waterbody



Fig 3 - Dongarkinhi waterbody

1.3.4 GIS Assessment of the Sautada Waterbody

A detailed geospatial assessment of the Sautada Percolation Tank was undertaken to support technical planning and validate the suitability of the intervention. The assessment combined Google Earth imagery with field-level observations to develop a comprehensive understanding of the waterbody and its surrounding landscape.

The analysis examined the physical characteristics of the waterbody, catchment conditions, drainage network, land use patterns and hydrological significance. The assessment indicated that the waterbody is located at an elevation of approximately **793 metres above mean sea level** and receives runoff from the higher western, southwestern and northwestern catchment areas through a predominantly dendritic drainage network.

The surrounding landscape is primarily agricultural, with several wells located within the influence zone of the waterbody, highlighting its role in supporting groundwater recharge and irrigation.

The assessment also confirmed favourable site conditions for improving water storage capacity and enhancing long-term water availability.

Overall, the GIS study reaffirmed the strategic importance of the Sautada Percolation Tank as a critical community water resource. The findings provided the technical basis for project planning and strengthened the rationale for undertaking rejuvenation measures to improve groundwater recharge, agricultural resilience and local water security.



Fig 4 - Google Earth image showing location and land use details

1.3.5 Signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)

The partnership between Bhartiya Jain Sanghatana (BJS) and Mukul Madhav Foundation (MMF) was formally established through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on **25 May 2026**. The MoU provides the institutional framework for implementing the Rejuvenation of Waterbodies project at the **Sautada Percolation Tank** in Patoda Taluka, Beed district.

The agreement clearly defines the roles and responsibilities of both organisations and establishes the framework for project implementation, monitoring and reporting. It reflects a shared commitment to strengthening water security through the restoration of community water resources.

The intervention aims to restore the storage capacity of the Sautada Percolation Tank through scientific desilting, thereby improving groundwater recharge, enhancing the recharge of nearby wells and borewells, and supporting sustainable water availability for agriculture and surrounding communities.



Fig 5 - MoU signing at BJS office

1.3.6 Administrative Submissions and Statutory Approvals

Prior to commencement of field activities, BJS coordinated closely with the district administration to obtain the necessary statutory approvals for project implementation.

On **21 May 2026**, a formal request was submitted to the **District Collector and Magistrate, Beed**, seeking permission to undertake the Rejuvenation of Waterbodies initiative at Sautada village with CSR support from Mukul Madhav Foundation. Similar communication was also submitted to the **Soil and Water Conservation Department** to ensure departmental coordination and regulatory compliance.

The approvals received from the district administration facilitated timely mobilisation of field activities and ensured that project implementation was aligned with district priorities and statutory requirements.



20 May 2026

To,
Shri. Vivek Johnson (I.A.S.)
Collector & District Magistrate,
District Beed

Subject: Undertaking work for Rejuvenation of Waterbodies in Beed District

Respected Sir,

Greetings from Bharatiya Jain Sanghatana.

Bharatiya Jain Sanghatana (BJS) is a non-profit social impact organization with over four decades of experience in community service. Through extensive collaboration with Central and State Governments, as well as local communities, BJS has developed a district-level water sufficiency model along with a standardised and effective approach for the rejuvenation of waterbodies.

With the valuable support of Government of Maharashtra, BJS has been actively engaged since 2013 in strengthening water resources across the state through rejuvenation of waterbodies (RWB). BJS proposes to undertake rejuvenation of waterbodies in Sautada village of Patoda block, in collaboration with Mukul Madhav Foundation.

In this regard, we would like to inform you that BJS will be undertaking RWB work in Sautada village, Patoda block, Beed district.

We look forward to your kind consideration and support.

Thanking you,

Sapana Singh
Bharatiya Jain Sanghatana

21/5/2026

Fig 6 - Submission of Request Letter to the District Collector Seeking Permission to Implement the RWB Project in Beed District, 21 May 2026



20 May 2026

To,
The Soil and Water Conservation Officer,
District Beed

Subject: Undertaking work for Rejuvenation of Waterbodies in Beed District

Respected Sir,

Greetings from Bharatiya Jain Sanghatana.

Bharatiya Jain Sanghatana (BJS) is a non-profit social impact organization with over four decades of experience in community service. Through extensive collaboration with Central and State Governments, as well as local communities, BJS has developed a district-level water sufficiency model along with a standardized and effective approach for the rejuvenation of waterbodies.

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We look forward to your kind consideration and support.

Thanking you,

Sapana Singh
Bharatiya Jain Sanghatana

21/05/2026

Fig 7 - Request letter submitted to Soil and Water Conservation Department, Beed, 21 May 2026

1.1.7 Programme support from the Mukul Madhav Foundation

The Mukul Madhav Foundation team played an active role throughout the planning and mobilisation phase of the project. Working closely with the BJS team, MMF participated in site assessments, reviewed technical documentation and jointly validated the suitability of the selected waterbody for intervention.

Beyond project planning, the Foundation provided timely guidance during the review and approval of communication and branding materials to ensure alignment with project objectives and branding guidelines. Regular coordination between both organisations facilitated efficient decision-making and supported the timely mobilisation of implementation activities before the onset of the monsoon.

The collaborative approach adopted during the planning phase strengthened project preparedness and established a strong foundation for effective implementation.



Fig 8 - Village Banner-1



Fig 9 - Village Banner-2



Fig 10 - Silt Banner



Fig 11 - Caution Signboards used on site

Prachar Rath Branding



Fig 12 - Branding collaterals (on the Front Side of the Prachar Rath)



Fig 13 - Branding collaterals (on the Left Side of the Prachar Rath)



Fig 14 - Branding collaterals *(on the Right side of Prachar Rath)*



Fig 15 - Branding collaterals (on the Back Side of the Prachar Rath)



Fig 16 - Prachar Rath on field (side view)



Fig 17 - Prachar Rath on field (back view)



Fig 18 - Prachar Rath on field (side view)

2.0 Inauguration of Rejuvenation of Waterbodies Project

The Rejuvenation of Waterbodies project was formally inaugurated on **30 May 2026** at Sautada village in Patoda Taluka, marking the official commencement of field implementation.

The inaugural programme was attended by representatives from Mukul Madhav Foundation, local government officials, village representatives, farmers and members of the community. The event provided an opportunity to introduce the objectives of the project, reinforce the importance of water conservation and encourage active community participation throughout implementation.

The inauguration reflected the collective commitment of BJS, MMF, local administration and the community towards restoring shared water resources and strengthening long-term water security in the region.



Fig 19 - Inauguration ceremony of the desilting activities

2.1 Community Awareness Campaign through Prachar Rath

An awareness campaign was conducted through Prachar Rath to disseminate key project messages across village Sautada in Patoda taluka. The Prachar Rath campaign enabled effective community outreach by communicating information on project objectives, anticipated benefits, and avenues for community participation through visual displays and audio announcements. The campaign contributed to increased public awareness and engagement, supporting community involvement in the Rejuvenation of Waterbodies initiative.

Community mobilisation formed an important component of the project implementation strategy. To create awareness and encourage community participation, BJS conducted an outreach campaign through a dedicated Prachar Rath across Sautada village.



Fig 20 - Prachar Rath in Action (view 1)



Fig 21 - Prachar Rath in Action (view 2)

The campaign disseminated information on the objectives of the Rejuvenation of Waterbodies project, the importance of water conservation and the expected benefits of restoring the percolation tank. Visual displays and public announcements were used to engage community members and promote awareness regarding the ongoing intervention.

The campaign also encouraged farmers to participate in the productive utilisation of excavated silt, reinforcing community ownership of the initiative. The positive response from local residents reflected strong stakeholder interest and laid the foundation for sustained community participation during implementation.

2.2 Implementation and Desilting Work

- **Appointment of District Program Officer and Field Associate**

  Following the completion of planning, technical assessments and statutory approvals, field implementation of the Rejuvenation of Waterbodies project commenced at the Sautada Percolation Tank on 26 May 2026.

  To ensure effective project execution, BJS established an on-ground implementation team comprising a **District Programme Officer (DPO)** and a **Field Associate (FA)**. The field team was trained prior to mobilisation and was responsible for daily implementation monitoring, stakeholder coordination, field data collection and reporting. While the Field Associate monitored day-to-day desilting activities and maintained records of excavated silt, the District Programme Officer coordinated with local stakeholders, supervised implementation and ensured timely reporting of project progress.

  Three earthmoving machines were deployed at the project site to facilitate timely execution before the onset of the monsoon. Early mobilisation enabled work to commence ahead of the formal inauguration, maximising the available implementation window and accelerating field progress.

  Project implementation was monitored through the BJS digital monitoring system, enabling regular tracking of field activities, machinery deployment and excavation

progress. By **5 June 2026**, substantial progress had been achieved before field operations were temporarily suspended following rainfall on the night of **5 June**, signalling the onset of the monsoon.

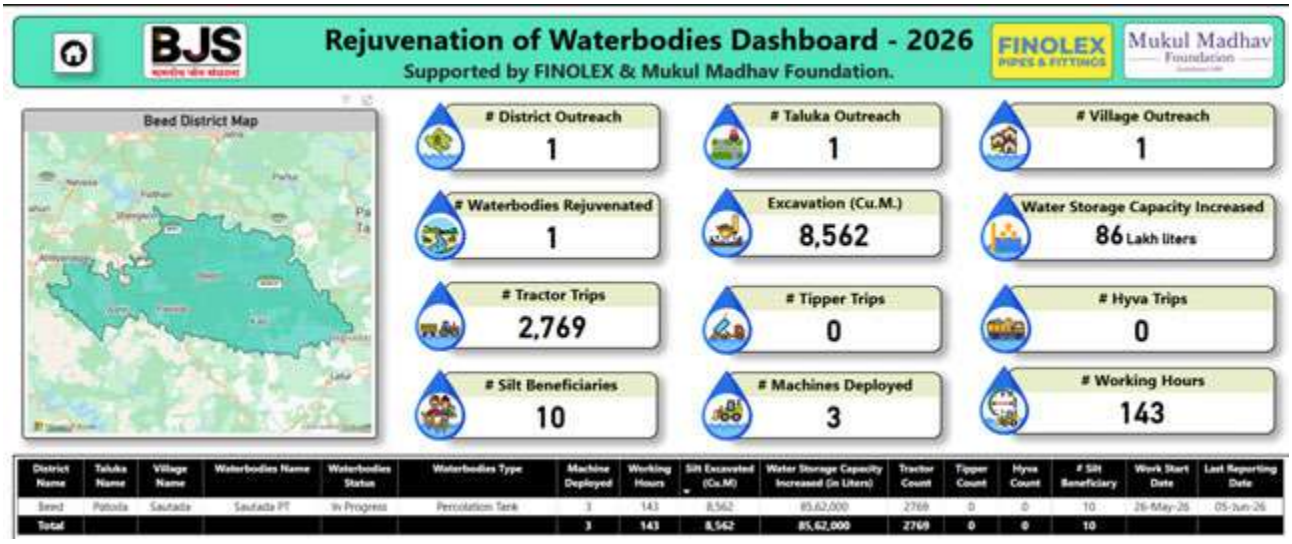


Fig 22 - Beed District Dashboard up to June 5, 2026

Since it rained on the night of 5 June 2026, work on the Sautada waterbody was halted on 6 June 2026 for this season.

2.3 Desilting of Sautada Percolation Tank

Desilting operations at the Sautada Percolation Tank commenced on 26 May 2026 with the objective of restoring the waterbody's storage capacity and improving its groundwater recharge potential.

As part of standard safety protocols, caution signage was installed at strategic locations around the project site to ensure the safety of local residents during excavation activities.

During the reporting period, a total of 8,562 cubic metres of accumulated silt was excavated from the waterbody. The intervention focused on removing deposited sediment that had reduced the effective storage capacity of the percolation tank over time.

The excavation work is expected to contribute to improved rainwater storage, enhanced groundwater recharge and greater water availability for irrigation and surrounding communities following the completion of the intervention.



Fig 23 - Work in Progress at the Sautada percolation tank



Fig 24 - Silt carting from site in progress

2.4 Productive Utilisation of Excavated silt

An important outcome of the intervention has been the productive utilisation of excavated silt by local farming communities. Farmers voluntarily transported the nutrient-rich silt from the rejuvenated waterbody to their agricultural fields at their own expense, demonstrating strong community ownership and participation in the initiative.

The excavated silt is expected to improve soil structure, enhance moisture retention and replenish nutrients that are often lost through continuous cultivation and erosion. Improved soil conditions can support better root development, increase water-holding capacity and contribute to healthier crop growth over time.

The intervention therefore generates dual environmental and livelihood benefits. While desilting restores the storage capacity and recharge potential of the waterbody, the beneficial reuse of silt contributes to improved soil health and strengthens the long-term productivity and resilience of surrounding agricultural lands.

The active participation of farmers in transporting and applying the excavated silt also reflects the community's confidence in the intervention and reinforces the sustainability of the project beyond the implementation phase.



Fig 25 - Farmers depositing silt on their farms



Fig 26 - Farm of Dnyanoba Shinde



Fig 27 - Farm of Hanumant Pawar

2.5 Mobile application – Octopus Mobile Application for Project Data Tracking

To strengthen implementation monitoring and reporting, Bhartiya Jain Sanghatana deployed its digital monitoring platform, the **Octopus App**, for real-time tracking of project activities.

The application enables field teams to capture daily implementation data, geo-tagged photographs and waterbody-wise progress through a structured digital interface. Access to the platform is restricted to authorised users, ensuring secure data collection and maintaining the integrity of project records.

Information captured through the application is automatically integrated into a centralised dashboard, enabling programme teams to monitor implementation progress, review field performance and identify operational gaps in real time. The platform also supports timely reporting to project stakeholders through accurate and structured field data.

The use of the Octopus App has strengthened project monitoring by improving data quality, enhancing transparency and enabling evidence-based decision-making throughout implementation.

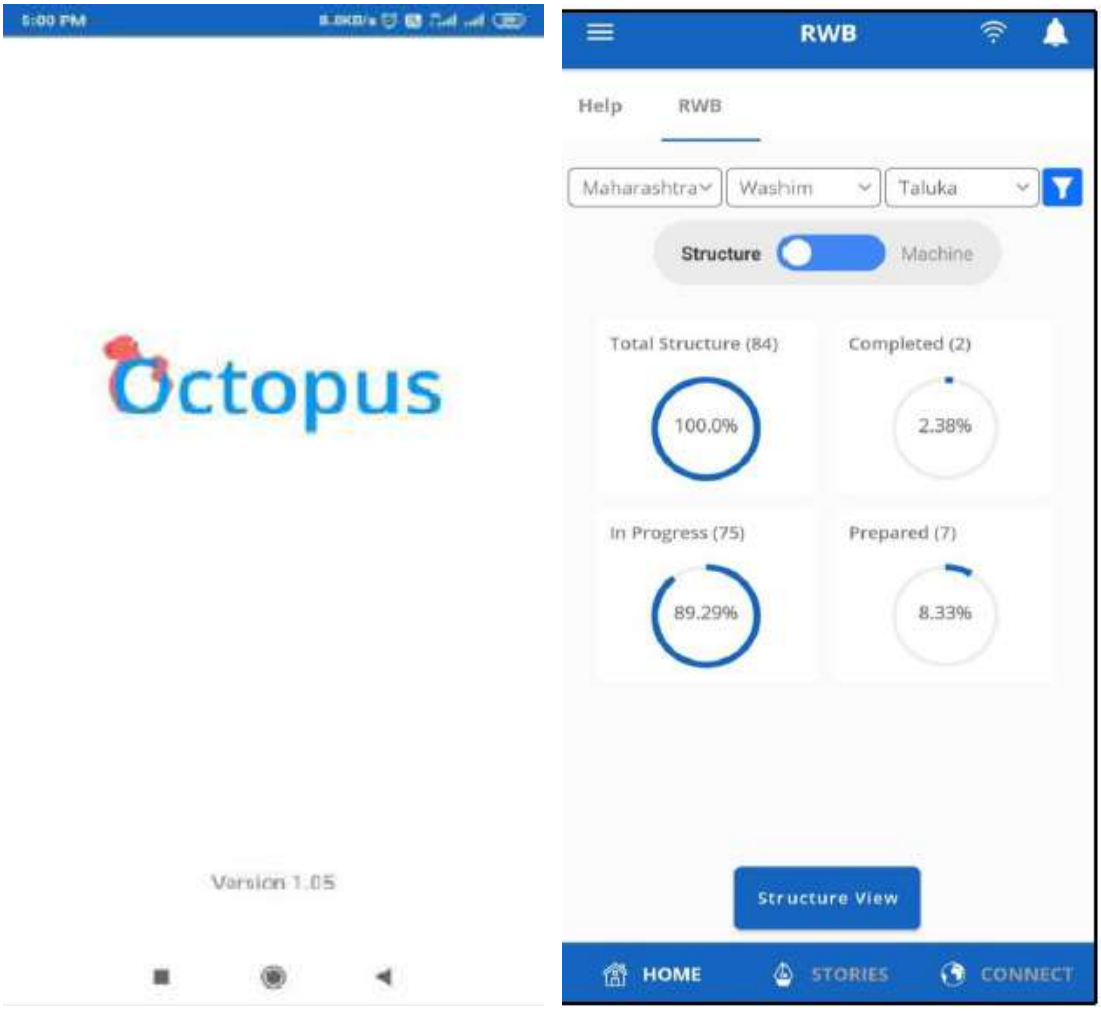


Fig 28 - Octopus App Screenshots

3.0 Implementation Challenges

Despite careful planning and timely mobilisation, project implementation was constrained by the early onset of the monsoon.

Challenge	Impact	Mitigation
Early monsoon rainfall on 5 June 2026	Desilting activities were temporarily suspended to ensure safety and protect machinery.	Early mobilisation enabled significant excavation to be completed prior to rainfall. Remaining work will resume after the monsoon.
Limited implementation window	Reduced duration available for excavation activities.	Three earthmoving machines were deployed to maximise productivity during the available period.

The project team responded proactively by mobilising resources in advance and completing substantial excavation before weather conditions halted operations.



Fig 29 - Desilting Work in Progress at the Sautada percolation tank

3.1 Way forward

With the onset of the monsoon, desilting activities have been temporarily suspended and will resume once weather conditions become conducive and the waterbody has sufficiently dried.

The next phase of implementation will focus on completing the remaining desilting work, restoring the full storage capacity of the Sautada Percolation Tank and continuing the productive utilisation of excavated silt by local farmers. BJS will continue to monitor implementation progress through its digital monitoring system while maintaining close coordination with the district administration, Mukul Madhav Foundation and local stakeholders.

Upon completion of the intervention, the project is expected to strengthen groundwater recharge, improve water availability for irrigation, enhance soil health through beneficial reuse of excavated silt and contribute to long-term water security for the surrounding farming communities.

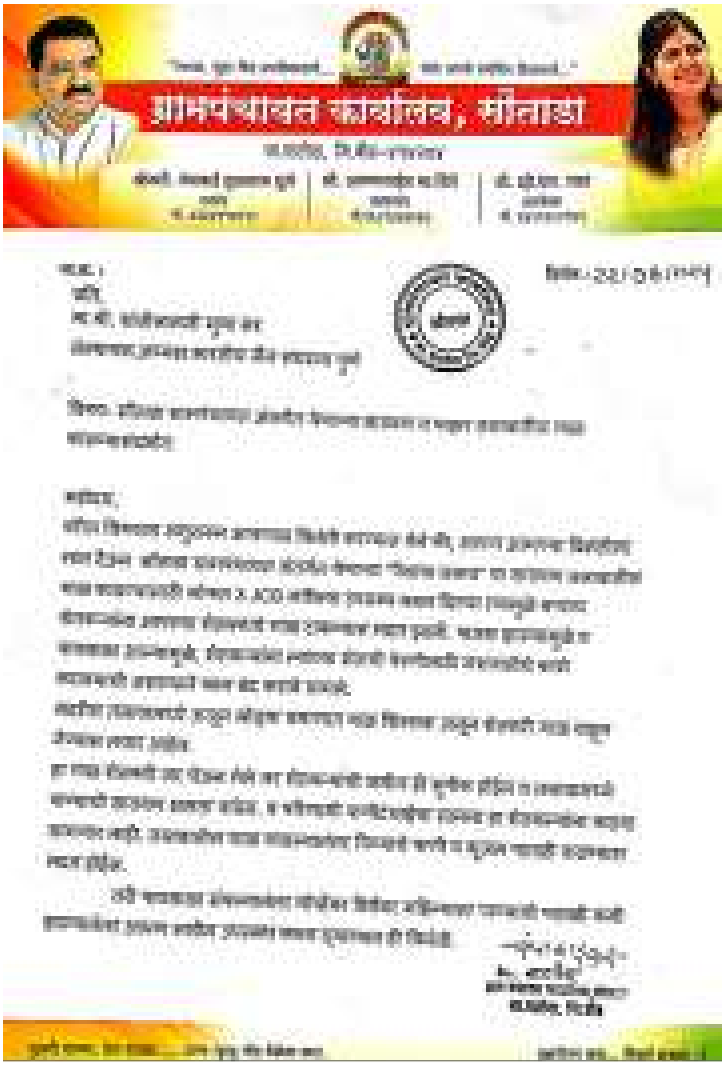


Fig 30 - The Gram Panchayat has given a formal request for continuation of desilting activities during October –December period to facilitate excavation of the remaining sil

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