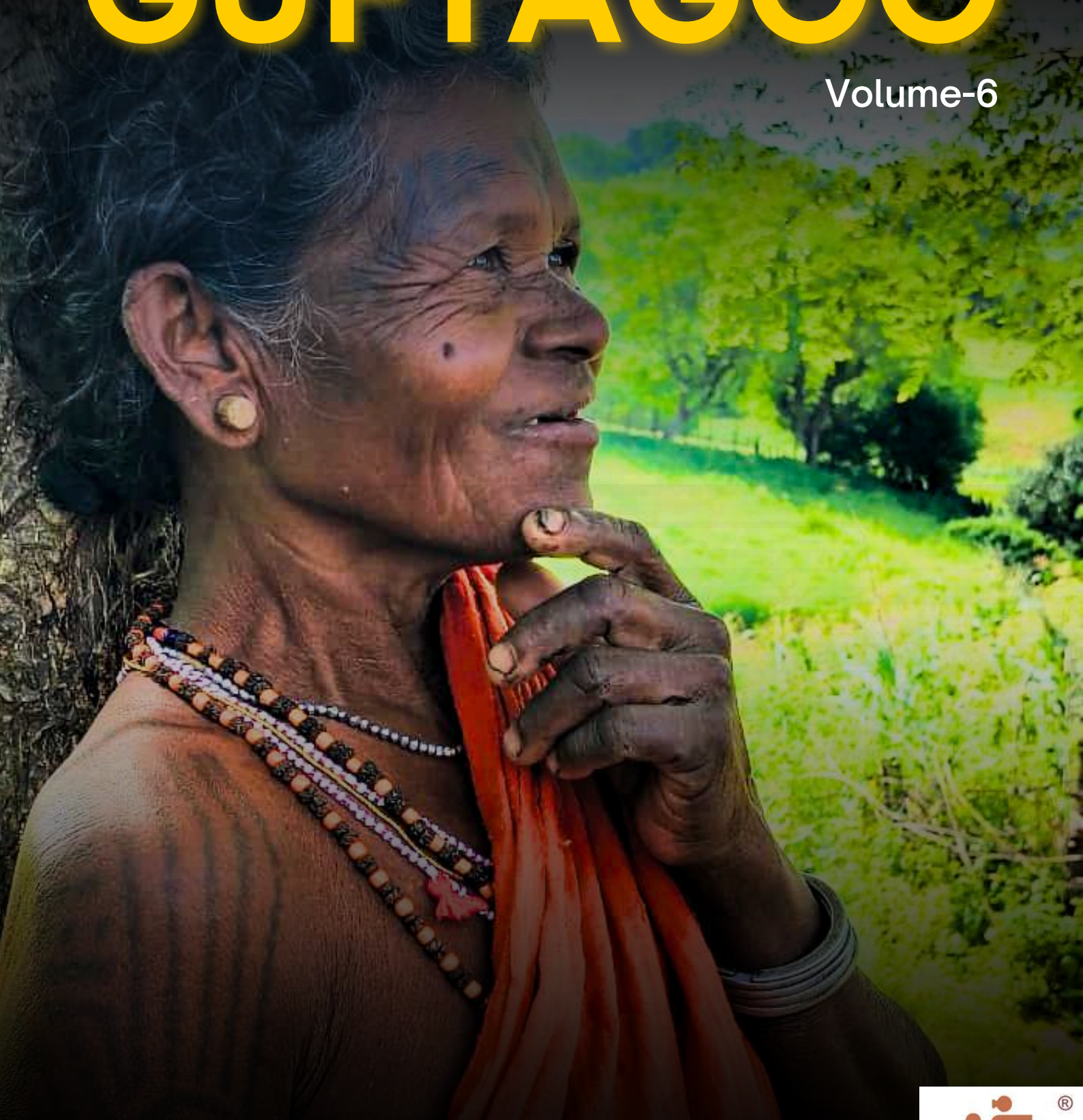


Quarterly Activity Update

GUFTAGOO

Volume-6



*Chalo, Sab Milkar is Guftagoo ko Dilkash
Banaye !*

SAMERTH INNOVATIVE EDUCATION PROGRAM- AHMEDABAD.

STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY OWNERSHIP IN WATER QUALITY TESTING.

COMMUNITY-LED ACTION AT PALWADA AND TAJPUR GRAM PANCHAYATS.

This quarter, Samerth Charitable Trust, Urban Program facilitated water quality testing sessions in Palwada and Tajpur Gram Panchayats, placing community ownership at the heart of safe drinking water initiatives.

Each session began with a shared understanding of the purpose of water testing, followed by interactive discussions on water tariffs, supply sources, and distribution schedules. Participants then engaged in hands-on demonstrations of nine water tests, making the process transparent and inclusive.

PALWADA GRAM PANCHAYAT



20 participants joined, representing a diverse mix of community leaders and frontline workers. The Sarpanch, Deputy Sarpanch, Talati Cum-Mantri, and VWSC led various stages of the testing, encouraging deeper community engagement.

These initiatives are fostering a culture of vigilance, transparency, and shared responsibility. Communities are no longer passive recipients—they are becoming active custodians of their water resources, equipped with the knowledge and tools to ensure safe, sustainable access.



PALWADA GRAM PANCHAYAT

15 participants— including the Sarpanch, Deputy Sarpanch, PRI members, VWSC, HM, AWW, ASHA, and the pump operator—actively took part. Leadership roles were embraced by village officials, with collaborative testing guided by Samerth.

SAMERTH TALIM KENDRA: Inclusive Education in Action.

Internship Collaboration with CRC Ahmedabad at Samerth Talim Kendra.

Samerth Talim Kendra, under the Samerth Charitable Trust, continues its meaningful collaboration with Composite Regional Center (CRC), Ahmedabad to strengthen inclusive education practices. As part of this ongoing partnership, six second-year B.Ed. students from CRC have joined Samerth Talim Kendra for a 6-week (300-hour) internship focused on working with Children with Special Needs.



Internship Highlights.

- ▶ Curriculum Scope: Each intern is developing and implementing 30 lesson plans, spanning from early intervention to vocational training.
- ▶ Child-Centered Planning: Every student is responsible for evaluating three children and preparing Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) tailored to their developmental needs.
- ▶ Community Engagement: Interns will organize a Parents Meeting, along with cultural, social, and sports programs to foster holistic inclusion.
- ▶ Documentation & Reflection: Progress updates are shared regularly via WhatsApp groups, encouraging peer learning and accountability.



This internship is being mentored by Special Educators Shrikant Paswan and Nahid Dhobi. Through this initiative, Samerth Talim Kendra is not only nurturing future educators but also reinforcing its commitment to inclusive, child-centered learning environments. The collaboration exemplifies how field-based practice, mentorship, and community engagement can come together to create meaningful change.

SAMERTH CHARITABLE TRUST, KABIRDHAM (CG).

आत्मनिर्भरता की ओर :श्रीमती मनता परुते दीदी की सफलता की कहानी

1. लाभार्थी का नाम

लाभार्थी कानाम श्रीमतीमनता बाईपरते, निवासीग्राम पंचायतशीतलपानी ग्राम खिलाही, ब्लॉक बोडला, जिला कबीरधाम (छत्तीसगढ़)है। वहएक महिलाकिसान हैं, जिनकेपास कुल 3 एकड़कृषि भूमिहै।



2.पृष्ठभूमि

ग्राम पंचायतखिलाही, चिल्फ्रीघाटी कीमेक्कल पहाड़ियोंऔर घनेजंगलों केबीच बसाहुआ एकछोटा ग्रामीणक्षेत्र है।इस क्षेत्रके लोगमुख्य रूपसे कृषिऔर पशुपालनपर निर्भरहैं। श्रीमती मनताबाई परतेका परिवारभी पहलेकेवल धानकी खेतीपर निर्भरथा, जिससेउनकी आयबहुत सीमितथी। जलस्रोत औरआय केअन्य विकल्पन होनेके कारणउनकी आर्थिकस्थिति कमजोरथी। परिवारकी आजीविकाचलाना कठिनहो रहाथा औरवर्षभर नियमितआमदनी काकोई साधनउपलब्ध नहींथा।



3. हस्तक्षेप

समर्थ ट्रस्टके मार्गदर्शनऔर सहयोगसे मनतादीदी नेअपनी भूमिका बेहतरउपयोग करनाशुरू कियाऔर बहुआयामीआजीविका गतिविधियोंको अपनाया।

- मनरेगा के सहयोग से डबरी निर्माण एवं संस्था के सहयोग से मत्स्य पालन:
- उन्होंने अपनी 3 एकड़ भूमि में से एक हिस्से पर स्वयं की मेहनत और मनरेगा के सहयोग से 20×20 फीट का डबरी (तालाब) तैयार किया। समर्थ ट्रस्ट ने उन्हें 5 किलो मछली बीजउपलब्ध कराया। डबरी में मछलियों का अच्छा उत्पादन हुआ और वर्षभर पानी की सुविधा भी बनी,जिससे अपने फसलों में सिंचाई भी कर रहे है।
- कृषि उत्पादन:
 - खरीफ सीजन में उन्होंने 2.8 एकड़ भूमि पर धानकी खेती की।
 - रबी सीजन में 2 एकड़ भूमि पर मटरकी फसल और लगभग 30 डिसमिल में सब्जियाँलगाईं।
 - इस प्रकार अब उनकी खेती केवल बरसाती धान तक सीमित नहीं रही बल्कि सालभर उत्पादन देने लगी।
- सूअर पालन:
- खेती और मछली पालन के साथ उन्होंनेपशुपालन को भी आजीविका का हिस्सा बनाया। उनके पास 2 मादा सूअर हैं, जिनसे उन्हें 13 पिगलेट्स प्राप्त हुए।



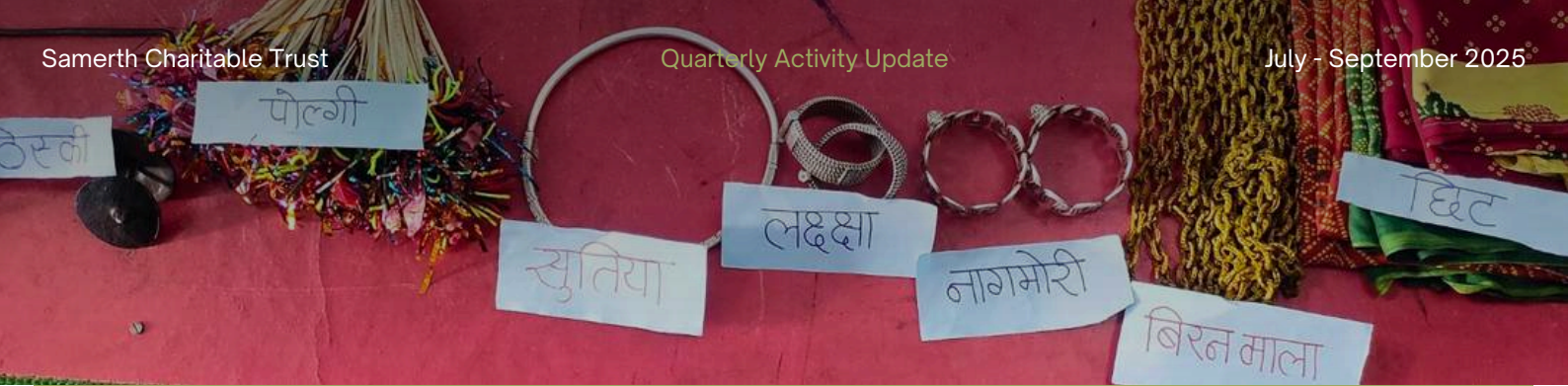
4. परिणाम / उपलब्धियाँ

- इन सभी गतिविधियों से मनता बाई को वर्षभर में अच्छी आमदनी हुई -
- मत्स्य पालन से: लगभग4 क्विंटल मछली प्राप्त हुई। इसका मूल्य ₹150 प्रति किलो के हिसाब से लगभग ₹60,000हुआ।
- धान उत्पादन से: खरीफ सीजन में कुल 42 क्विंटल धान उपजा। इसे ₹3,100 प्रति क्विंटल की दर से बेचकर ₹1,30,200 की आमदनी हुई।
- सूअर पालन से: 13 पिगलेट्स को ₹4,000 प्रति पिगलेट के हिसाब से बेचकर ₹52,000 की आय हुई।
- इस प्रकार एक वर्ष में मनता बाई की कुल आय = ₹2,42,200
- मनता दीदी अपने खेत से ओर मछली पालन कर के दीदी का कुल शुद्ध आय 2 लाख हुआ जिसमे 42 हजार 2 सौ रुपये लागत हुआ।
- यह आय पहले की तुलना में कई गुना अधिक है। अब उनके परिवार की खाद्य सुरक्षा, आर्थिक स्थिरता औरजीवन स्तर में उल्लेखनीय सुधार हुआ है।



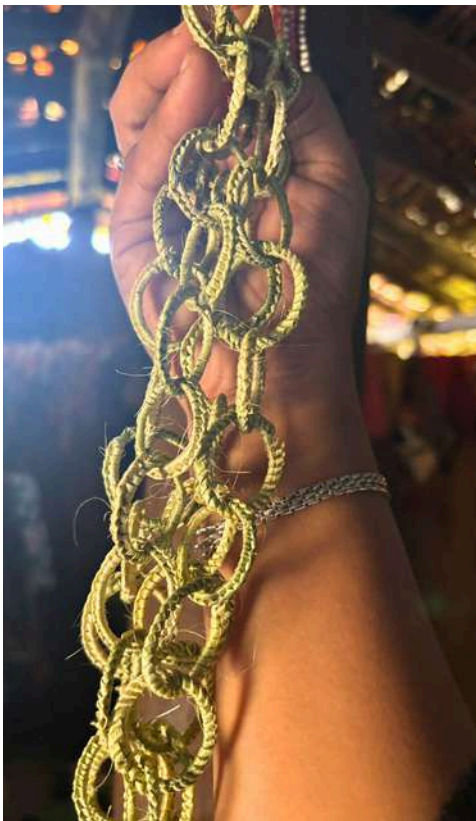
5. सफलता की कहानी (मनता दीदी के शब्दों में)

"पहलेहमारी खेतीकेवल वर्षआधारित धानकी खेतीतक सीमितथी जिससेआमदनी बहुतकम होतीथी। घरका खर्चचलाना मुश्किलथा। समर्थट्रस्ट केसहयोग सेमैंने डबरीबनाकर मछलीपालन शुरूकिया, साथही मटरऔर सब्जियोंकी खेतीतथा सूअरपालन भीकिया। आजमेरी आमदनीबढ़कर सालानादो लाखरुपये सेअधिक होगई है।अब मेरेपरिवार केपास भोजनकी कमीनहीं हैऔर बच्चोंका भविष्यभी सुरक्षितलग रहाहै। मुझेगर्व हैकि मैंनेअपनी मेहनतऔर समर्थट्रस्ट केमार्गदर्शन सेअपनी ज़िंदगीबदली है।"



THE BAIGA DANCE- CELEBRATION OF CULTURE AND NATURE.

The Baiga dance holds a central place in the cultural life of the Baiga tribe, symbolizing their deep-rooted connection with nature. Performed during festivals, rituals, and community celebrations, these dances embody the tribe's collective spirit, harmony, and reverence for the natural world. Men and women participate together, moving gracefully in circular formations to the rhythmic beats of traditional instruments such as the Thiski and Mandar (A type of drum), a distinctive percussion instrument crafted from iron and Wood. The dance form is called as Karma, this is the most prominent form, said to have been invented by the Baiga. It is performed in a circle, often around a tree or branch representing the tree of life, celebrating the harvest, seasons, and community unity.



The vibrancy of the Baiga dance is further enhanced by their traditional attire, musical instruments, singing traditional songs such as Dadariya and handcrafted ornaments, each carrying cultural significance and artistic value. Some of the prominent elements include:

- **Chhit:** A colorful traditional garment worn during the dance, knotted at the shoulder and flowing elegantly to cover the entire body. It adds grace and movement to the performance.
- **Kalgi:** A vibrant headgear adorned with peacock feathers and flowers, enhancing the visual appeal and festive spirit of the dancers.
- **Biren Mala:** A unique head adornment made from special forest grass by Baiga women. These circular garlands are handcrafted by weaving grass bundles into rings and are worn during performing the Baiga Dance in weddings, festivals, and major community events.
- **Naagmodi:** A silver ornament worn on the arms, symbolizing beauty and strength.
- **Lachha:** Traditional silver bangles adorning the wrists, adding rhythmic sound and shine to the dance movements.
- **Sutia:** A silver necklace worn around the neck, representing cultural pride and tradition.
- **Thiski:** A traditional musical instrument made of iron, played by hand to produce rhythmic beats that guide the dancers.
- **Pairi:** An anklet made of iron rings with small pebbles inside, worn on the feet to create a rhythmic sound that complements the music and movements of the dance.

-By Samikshya.



Together, these elements reflect the Baiga community's artistic expression, craftsmanship, and deep ecological harmony. The Baiga dance is not merely a form of entertainment— it is a living tradition that continues to preserve and celebrate the community's identity and intimate bond with nature.

FIELD VISIT EXPERIENCES

One fine evening, while returning home, I met a group of Baiga children from Rokhani village. They were walking barefoot along the road, holding long bamboo sticks with small nets tied at the end their handmade fishing tools. Out of curiosity and warmth, I waved at them and called out, "Kya machhli pakdi aaj?"

At first, they hesitated to respond and quietly kept walking. But after a moment, when I asked if I could see their catch, they smiled shyly and opened their makeshift pouches. I began asking the names of the fishes they had caught, and gradually, they started talking their hesitation turning into excitement as they proudly shared what little they knew.

As I walked away, a heavy feeling stayed with me. Those few minutes with the children left a lasting mark, a reminder of how unevenly hope and opportunity are distributed, even in the same landscape we all share.

It was a short yet meaningful interaction, filled with innocent smiles and curious eyes. Before leaving, I gently asked, "School nahi gaye aaj?" Their expressions suddenly changed. One of them softly replied, "Bhaiya, aage padhai karne ke liye gaon mein school nahi hai."

That simple sentence hit me deeply. Rokhani is just 6 to 8 kilometers from the main market at Kui, yet opportunities seem so far from their reach. I could see the quiet pain on their faces a silent acceptance of a life where education remains a distant dream.

-by Atul Kumar.



DEEPIKA'S JOURNEY: OVERCOMING BARRIERS TO EDUCATION

Shitalpani village, Bodla Block, Kabirdham district — Nine-year-old Deepika, a Class 3 student from the Baiga community, has shown remarkable determination in pursuing her education despite facing multiple challenges. Born with a physical disability and living far from the nearest Learning Resource Centre (LRC), attending school regularly was difficult for her. Her parents, who sustain their family of five children through daily wage labour, also struggled to ensure her continued learning.

Recognizing the barriers she faced, the Samerth team intervened to make education accessible for Deepika. After visiting her family and counselling her parents, the team motivated them to send her to the LRC regularly. Her learning levels in Hindi and Mathematics were assessed, and she began receiving support through Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN) activities, games, and peer group sessions. With these joyful learning methods, Deepika's reading, writing, and numeracy skills improved significantly, and her confidence grew day by day.

However, the long walk to school remained a major hurdle. Understanding her needs, Samerth facilitated the process for her disability certificate and, after continuous follow-up with the Social Welfare and Education Department, Bodla, Deepika finally received a tricycle, enabling her to travel to school independently.

Today, Deepika attends school regularly, learns enthusiastically, and dreams big for her future. Her journey reflects resilience, community collaboration, and the transformative impact of inclusive education efforts for children with disabilities.



AWARDS & RECOGNITION:

"We are proud to share that our colleague **Afroz Baig**, Urban Programme Lead/ Head has received the **Mahatma Award 2025**, one of India's highest honours for social impact and transformative leadership. This award is given to outstanding changemakers who embody **Gandhian principles** and lead meaningful initiatives for a better society. Please join us in congratulating **Afroz Baig** for this remarkable achievement and for inspiring us all through dedication and vision."

- Recognizes excellence in social responsibility, sustainability, and community service.
- Annually presented to individuals and organizations creating lasting, positive change.
- Supported by prominent figures and organizations such as the Aditya Birla Group and Mahatma Foundation.

Afroz's achievement reflects the spirit of compassionate leadership and motivates the entire team to strive for positive impact and innovation.



Samerth Charitable Trust proudly congratulates **Mr. Iqbal Baig**, **COO**, for being honored with the **Rashtra Seva Puraskar 2025** by the **Bharat Seva Society** in recognition of his outstanding contribution to social work across **Chhattisgarh and Gujarat**. His leadership and dedication continue to inspire our collective efforts toward inclusive development and social change.

Adding to his achievements, **Mr. Baig** also participated in the **World River Run 2025**, held on 28 September 2025, representing Ahmedabad in the 5km run to celebrate and raise awareness about the importance of rivers.

We extend our heartfelt congratulations to **Mr. Baig** for his continued commitment and exemplary service toward building a sustainable and equitable future.

