



*Bring Prosperity  
Together*





# MISSION 500 CRORE LITERS WATER STORAGE

Mission 500 is a Water Conservation movement, started by the people, for the people. It is indigenous, most decentralized community based model of water conservation.



## Overview

Mission 500 is a movement composed of the Paach Patil team, started by Dr Ujjwalkumar Chavhan (IRS) in 2017 from Dhamangaon village in Jalgaon District of Maharashtra for water conservation. In this, the Farmers come together, plan for the various water conservation works, contribute for diesel expenses for making small lakes and check dams with the help of Poclain /JCB machines made available by NGOs. So far the work has reached more than 100 villages in 9 districts of Maharashtra and has created water storage of more than 450 crore liters, planted 45000 trees and repaired farm roads of 40 KM.

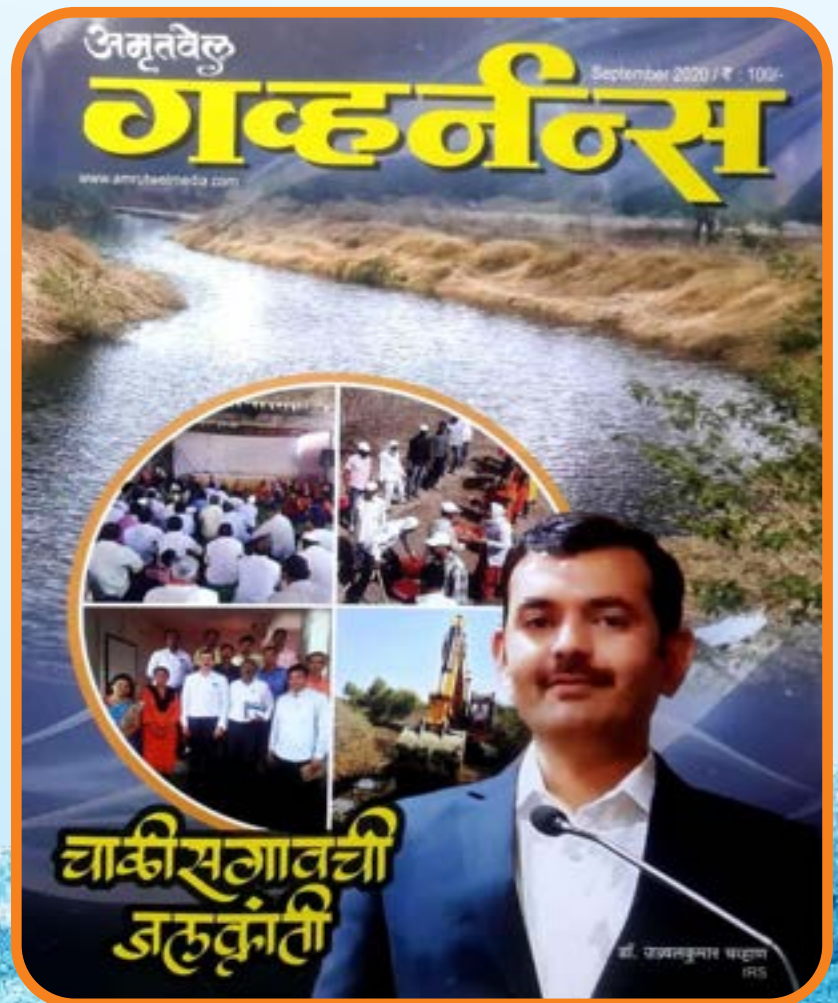
## Mission

Our mission is to empower people and bring them together to solve their common community problems.

## Goals

Our goal is to -

1. Create a water reservoir of 500 Crore liters in each Tehsil of Maharashtra
2. Raise ground water level by 10 feet from the ground level.
3. Rejuvenate Village Rivers, so that their flow is perennial.
4. Ensure availability of water for both Kharif and rabi crops so that the farmers Income is doubled.
5. Ensure ecological balance.





## Method

Average rainfall in Khandesh and Marathwada is around 300-700 mm. Surface runoff is 60%. It is arrested by creating storage capacity of 5-10 crore liters of water in each village of area around 1000 hectares in the forms of multiple check dams and small tanks on rivers and rivulets. Trees plantation on the bank of the rivers stabilizes these structures. Desiltation opens the pores in the ground. This work hastens groundwater recharge, raising it upto 5 feet from the ground. It rejuvenates streams and clear flow of water lasts till the month of February/March in the river.

## Works carried out.

Deepening and widening, de-siltation of rivers, Check dams and tanks, creating farm roads, soak pits for waste water from houses and cow sheds, well recharge, common farm ponds, leveling farms and Bandh bandisti, repairs and construction of farm roads and plantation of trees.

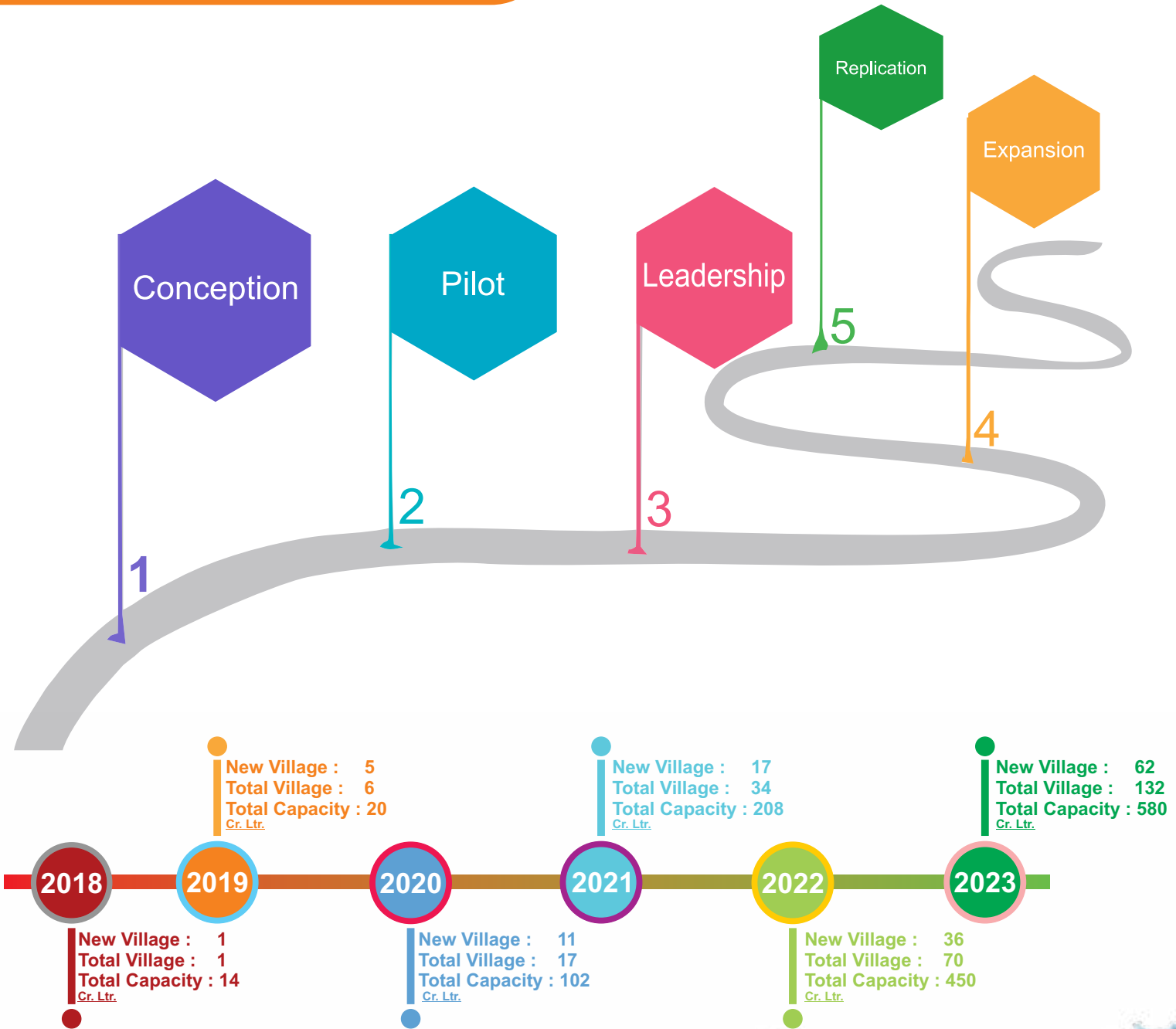
## Pach Patil Team

People who took responsibility for 5 villages each, are called 'Pach Patil'. These 21 People are trained in Leadership Development Skills. They create awareness among the villages by conducting meetings and Shivar Pheri, selecting Gaon Pramukh, who in turn Plans and executes the work with farmers. All this machinery works voluntarily. Hence the Mission does not incur any administrative cost.



(Paach Patil team with Waterman of India Shri Rajendra Singh, Shri Indrajit Deshmukh and Shri Sanjay Katkar)

# Journey





## Work Execution

Group of 30 farmers is created in each village, who are ready to contribute for diesel expenses and provide food for the Poclain Machine operator. Selection of beneficiaries and selection of work sites is done by this 'Pani Samiti' of the village. Work of deepening and widening, de-siltation, Check dams and tanks planned from top to bottom of the river as per Village Map (Downloaded from GSDA website). Sequencing of work is done. In the villages where planned work is more than 200 hours, NGOs/CSR funds are contacted for availing Poclain/JCB machines. Half expenses for rent of Machine is paid by NGO and remaining half expenses for diesel are paid by farmers.

## Training

Mission 500 in coordination with People's Work Commission on Drought and Flood has started training people from across Maharashtra in the methodology of Mission. Two such training camps were organized. First camp has held in Rajgurunagar Pune in March 2023 and second training camp was held in May 2023 at Wardha's Sevagram Ashram.

## Milestones

### I. Conception

This concept of watershed development through people's participation started in the year 2017 in Dhamangaon Village. The 14 crore liter surface water reservoir was created in the first year itself.

### II. Pilot project

This concept was tested in 6 more villages in 2018 to see whether farmers can come together for this work in a couple of village meetings. Farmers responded well and a reservoir of 20 crore liters was created.

### III. Leadership Development

Expansion of this project to further villages requires trained leadership. 14 people were trained in 2019-20 for 9 months on the lines of the "Landmark forum

program.” They took responsibility for 5 villages each, therefore called “Pach patil”. They work without any remuneration. Work was expanded to 16 villages. Storage capacity reached up to 1.02 Billion liters.

#### iv. Expansion

The project reached up to 34 villages in 4 tehsils in 4 districts of Maharashtra and crossed the storage capacity of 2.08 Billion liters in 2020-21. Number of NGOs supporting this project expanded to 4 viz Sakal Relief Fund, Rotary Club, Bhartiya Jain Sanghatana and NAAM Foundation.

#### v. Replication

In 2021-22, this model replicated in 70 villages in 7 districts and created a storage capacity of 450 Crore liters.

**Mission Titur River cleaning-** Chalisgaon city was flooded 8 times in monsoon of 2021. Through collaboration of NGO/CSR and people's participation, 1500 dumper silt was removed from the 7 KM stretch of the river in the city.

## Outcomes

Rise in ground water level upto 5-10 feet from the ground. Rivers in these villages continue flowing till March and April. Earlier they run dry by October. Same is the position with respect to open wells. Farmers harvesting two crops, Kharip and Rabbi. Income doubled. Employment availed locally. Boost to Animal husbandry, Dairy, Fishery activities. More Grass, Bushes and Trees grow and sustain around wetlands, balancing the Ecology. People are coming together to resolve their other problems too like education etc.

## Specialities

Self Sustainable model since the farmers are taking ownership of the work. People Driven - 60% expenditure is by Farmers. Transparent - NGOs directly pay to Machine vendors and Farmers to Petrol Pumps.



Voluntary, Selfless service by the paach Patil and Gaon Pramukh. Indigenous skill used , people working with Varkari philosophy and spirit. Non-Political, Non- Commercial, Non-Religious movement- Civil Society in Villages. In tune with Agro-Climatic Environmental Principles, without disturbing nature.

## Future Plan

Plan is to expand the work in all the tehsils of Maharashtra and create a water storage of at least 500 Crore litres in each tehsil. Set a precedence and example of democratic decentralization and people's participation in the developmental process. Change the cropping pattern to ensure doubling of income of the farmers in the participant villages.

## Our Proposal

We request you to take the responsibility of at least a cluster of 50 villages for rent expenses of poclain/JCB machines. The total expenditure for this work will be Rs. 1 Crore. For one year's work, these expenses are around Rs 2 Lakhs per village.

The outcome from this Rs 2 lakhs will be as follows -

Sr No	Criteria	Total	Average
1	Population impacted	Around 2000 persons	Rs 100 per person
2	Additional surface water storage	3 Crore Liter	150 lit. of storage capacity created by each Rupee spent by NGO.
3	Area brought under irrigation	200 hectares	Rs 1000 spent for irrigating 1 hector.



## Mechanism

We prefer that rent may be directly paid to vendors / owners of machines by NGO/CSR Fund.

The vendor/owner of the machine will submit

1. The bill of the work carried out.
2. Log book / measurements of work done.
3. Recommendation letter from The Gram panchayat of the village informing the total hours of work done, storage capacity created and contribution of farmers.
4. Before and after photographs.

The payment will be made on the submission of above documents after completion of the work.

MoU will be signed at the time of initiation of the work with NGO/CSR fund.

## Mission Titur River Cleaning

Chalisingaon city was flooded 8 times in monsoon of 2021. There was huge loss of animals and property. To avoid further flooding in the city the desilting and widenings and deepening of both the rivers was started in 2022, through collaboration of Mission 500, Chalisingaon Municipal Council, NGO/CSR and people's participation. About 1500 dumper silt was removed from the 7 KM stretch of the river in the city. In monsoon of 2022 the city was not flooded, because of this work.

### Example of Rotary Club of Chembur, Mumbai

Rotary club is an international organization having vast experience and standard operating procedure for execution of social work, documentation, accounting and auditing. Rotary Club of Chembur has been supporting the water conservation project of Mission 500 for the last 3 years. Total financial support extended by Rotary Club is Rs 59 Lakhs including the current year 2022-23.

## AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS.

- Jalprahari Award by Jalshakti Mantralaya, Government of India and Sarkaritel
- Appreciation by Hon'ble Minister Shri Gajendra Sing Shekhawat,
- Kartavyam Award, by the hands of Hon'ble Governor of Maharashtra



- Paropkari Award, by Rotari Club , Chennai
- Khandeshratna Puraskar, by Sakal Media Group, Jalgaon



- Appreciation by Hon'ble Shri Rajendra Sing, Waterman of India at National Convention of Rivers at Hyderabad.



- Mission 500 Paach Patil Team was Awarded with Jan Samman Puraskar at Water Summit 2022, organized by India CSR Network on Dec. 03, 2023 held at Yashwantrao Chavan Pratishthan, Mumbai.



## REFERENCES

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<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X93Y3-f37Fk&t=24s>

### **Governance Magazine covered the success story of Mission 500 in a special issue.**

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### **Water man of India Hon’ble Shri Rajendra Singh felicitated all “Pach Patil”. Speech at National Water convention, Hyderabad**

<https://www.facebook.com/1226814592/posts/10228332773244243/?extid=0&d=n>

### **Speech at Constitution Club of India after receiving Jalprahari Award**

- Ujjwal Chavan, IRS sharing experiences on water conservation at Sarkaritel.com Jal Prahari Samman

### **Portal Better India covered the story of work done by of Mission 500**

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### **Story in New Indian Express**

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**Presentation at Maharashtra CSR Summit 2022 held in Mumbai by India CSR.**

- ▶ Dr. Ujjwalkumar Chavhan, IRS, Deputy Director, ED - Maharashtra CSR Summit 2022

**Dr. Ujjwalkumar Chavhan at Water Summit 2022 on Dec. 03, 2023  
organized by India CSR Network.**

- ▶ Dr. Ujjwalkumar Chavhan – IRS | Maharashtra Water Summit 2022 - Part 1

**Dr. Rajendra Singh, Waterman of India, on Water Conservation and the  
work done by Mission 500 at Water Summit 2022.**

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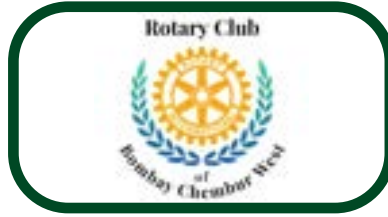








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