

OCT TO DEC 2025

Abhivyakti

HULLCHAL



## HULCHAL ACTIVITY

Initiating new projects meant new team members. Most of the new members were young and fresh and brought with them new ideas, enthusiasm and lots of energy. They were bubbling with excitement and so, channelising their energy in right direction was critical to the success of the projects.

Integrating them into the organisational culture and field of work took time but it has helped that the team now understands the context and is moving ahead in the right directions. You will find the details of the work done in the various projects in this edition of Hulchal. Do read and send your views, as we really like to read your comments!





**Trimbakeshwar**

# Ripples of Change

Tracing transformation in the lives of Shodhinis



## Shodhini Updates

We are happy with the progress of the Shodhini who are in regular contact with us. A few of the Shodhini are enrolled in college education, some have come to Nashik to pursue their education, some are gainfully employed, a few are helping us in our various projects. The Shodaks, too are finding meaning in various activities that they are engaged in, but the satisfying aspect is their awareness of gender equality and their efforts to address the gap that they see in their context. Many have taken initiative to support their sisters in delaying their forced-marriage or helped them in pursuing their education. Many of such stories of Shodhini and Shodak is in the report –'Ripples of Change' which was published on the impact of our intervention on adolescent girls and boys in the villages where we work.

[Ripples of Change Report Link](#)

## New Shodhini Direction – Transition to adulthood

We have started work in the selected four villages on transition from adolescent to adulthood with the girls. Since the theme is new, we decided to start with understanding the subject and how it plays out in the villages. We decided to collect prevalent practices, traditional methods if any that exist in the villages. We wanted to know whether such transitions existed in the villages and how they are practiced. It was important to know this before launching the activities. A base line type questions were prepared and the team is collecting information from different sources ranging from adolescent girls, their parents, village elders, old women among others to know if any such system exist or not.





## Saha Yatri Project Peer Leaders

A new project on developing youth leadership and action was initiated from September onwards. The project supported by Azim Premji Foundation aims to support youth in five tribal villages, develop their capacities and enable them to set up community learning centres and take appropriate actions in the villages to build awareness, leadership, and solidarity.

# Selection and Capacity Building of Peer Leaders

During the entire month of October, the team actively visited all five project villages to meet young girls and women and identify potential peer leaders. Through multiple meetings and interactions, committed and enthusiastic youth were selected to take forward leadership roles within their villages. From each village, we selected a group of four to five interested youth who had shown initiative and willingness to get involved in the village development process.





## Leadership Development Process

We also successfully organized the 1st Youth Leadership Development Workshop for the selected peer leaders. This was a residential workshop, which created space for deeper learning, bonding, and leadership skill development. The residential nature of the workshop helped participants engage fully, build confidence, and develop a strong sense of collective identity. As part of post-workshop engagement, peer leaders conducted Flannel Story presentations with their village collectives. This activity helped them practice facilitation skills and share learning with others. In each village, around 20–30 collective members and village community members participated, making it a strong community learning process.

# Identifying Safe Spaces for CLCs

In November, the focus shifted towards identifying and finalizing safe spaces for Community Learning Centres (CLCs) in each village. Several potential locations were explored through community consultations. In Sapgaon, potential spaces were identified, and continuous follow-up meetings were conducted with the Sarpanch to secure formal permission. This resulted in an important milestone - we received our first formal acquisition letter from the Sapgaon Sarpanch, marking a strong step towards establishing a dedicated safe learning space for young people.





## Re-Connecting with Collectives - Monthly Activity Rollout

In December, we initiated our first monthly activity across all project villages. While we had interacted with collective members during the village selection phase, a formal introduction and detailed orientation were still needed. Therefore, an Introduction and Orientation Activity was conducted in all five villages. This activity helped build clarity about the project vision, roles of peer leaders, and that of the collectives.



## Gender Champions

The Gender Champions Project was officially launched in September, marking the beginning of a structured effort to engage young boys and men in critical conversations around patriarchy, masculinity, and gender equality.



## Initiating Leadership development of Gender Champions

Over the past three months, the Gender Champions Project has made significant progress across the villages of Sapgoan, Velunje, and Ambai. A total of 12 Gender Champions were selected and successfully completed an intensive orientation and Learning Needs Assessment Workshop, followed by multiple phases of the Youth Leadership Course. Through these structured sessions, they strengthened their understanding of gender roles, patriarchy, consent, power dynamics, and healthy relationships. They were also introduced to basic quantitative research and data analysis, enabling them to better understand attendance trends, community patterns, and collective participation. To ensure accountability and growth tracking, each Champion now maintains an individual reflective diary and village-level attendance register, establishing a strong documentation system for long-term impact assessment.

# Facilitating structured sessions in the villages by the youth

The most visible milestone was the initiative of the Gender Champions who independently conducted their first round of fortnightly sessions in their respective villages, an important step toward leadership ownership. Across three villages, they facilitated structured discussions on self, identity, and masculinity, creating safe spaces where boys openly expressed thoughts and emotions many had never previously articulated. Participation levels steadily increased after initial hesitation, and collective bonds strengthened through reflective exercises and storytelling methods such as flannel board narratives.





## Visible Change

Beyond discussions, the Champions demonstrated initiative by proposing community level actions including plans for a children's library and street plays addressing social issues such as addiction. Their confidence in public speaking, facilitation, and responding to critical questions such as during their interaction with external youth groups has visibly improved.

The impact is clear: young men are not only engaging in conversations around gender equality but are developing the skills, confidence, and critical thinking required to lead them. As the project continues, these measurable shifts in participation, leadership capacity, and open dialogue indicate a strong foundation for sustained, community-driven social change.



## **Gram Shakti** **PESA project**

We are working in the 30 villages of Trimbakeshwar under the PESA Act with the aim to empower the Gram Sabhas, especially their youth and women, to assert their rights to self-govern and access basic services.

# Gram Sabha Awareness Campaigns in 30 Villages

On the occasion of PESA day on 24<sup>th</sup> December, we successfully organised Gram Sabha awareness in the eleven villages of Devichapada, Borpada, Behadpada, Kharwal, Fanaspada, Veernagar, Garmal, Baradpada, Berwal, Vinayaknagar and Ghotipada. The Village Gram Kosh committee and Village Development Committee (youth group) took initiative in organising the awareness campaign. Due to their active involvement the awareness campaign became meaningful as it focussed on the constitutional rights of the Gram Sabha, the provisions in the PESA act, and need to strengthen the local self-government and ways to strengthen it. Along with this the need for people to participate and take advantage was also discussed. In the eleven villages, we have managed to create a positive environment about Gram Sabha and its benefits.





## Preparing necessary documents for declaring villages as PESA villages

Our continued efforts to enable villages to be declared as PESA villages is showing results. We have managed to collect all the necessary documents in the three villages of Virachapada, Kuttarpada and Hattipada and have organised the files which included resolution of the Gram Sabha, village maps and other legal papers. The file containing all the documents of the village Veerachapada has been successfully submitted in the office of Panchayat Samiti at Trimbakeshwar.

# Individual Forest Claims

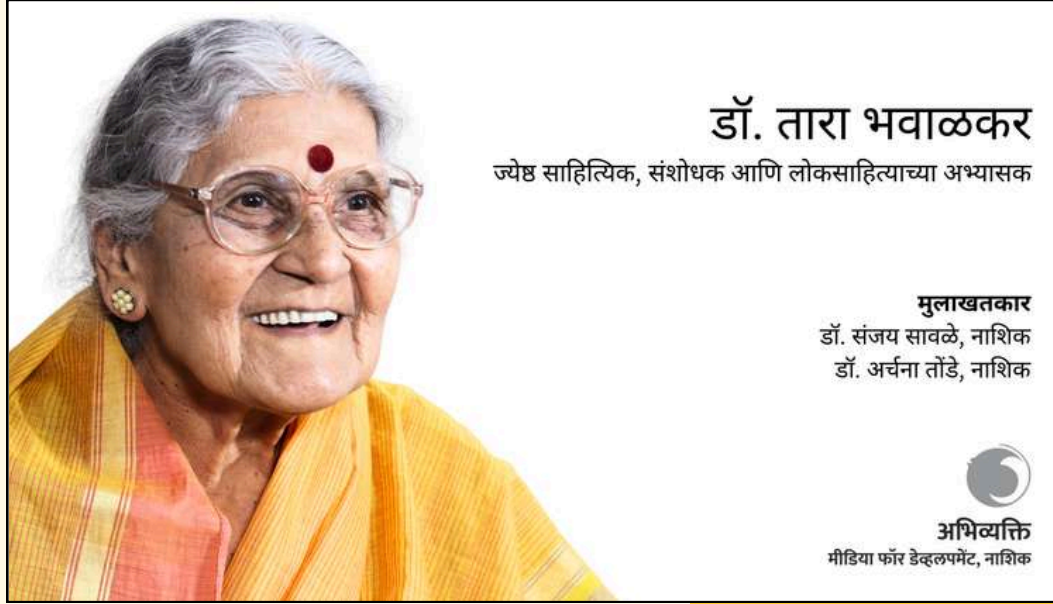
Along with creating awareness about Gram Sabha and activating local bodies, we are also actively engaged in the process of creating awareness about individual and collective claims on forest land. It's a challenging task involving several layers of activities. One of the activities which we completed in the thirty villages was mobilising the Development Committees, activating them and initiating awareness and discussion on claims on Forest Land. We have discussed the individual rights of the villagers on forest land and how to go about it in all the 30 villages where we are working.



## Community Media

### Interview with Dr. Tara Bhawalkar on Video

An in-depth interview of Dr. Tara Bhawalkar, President of the 98th Aakhil Bharatiya Marathi Sahitya Sammelan, was documented for screening at the Women's Rights Conference in Mumbai. and shared within our community work area to encourage dialogue, awareness, and continued engagement on women's rights issues. She shared her journey in the women's rights movement, reflecting on early struggles, past realities, and the present status of women's rights, along with the challenges that remain. The interview was conducted by Dr. Sanjay Salve and Dr. Archana Tonde from Nashik, who facilitated a thoughtful and engaging conversation. Two versions of the interview were produced, a short highlight video and a detailed long-format version for wider outreach and comprehensive documentation.



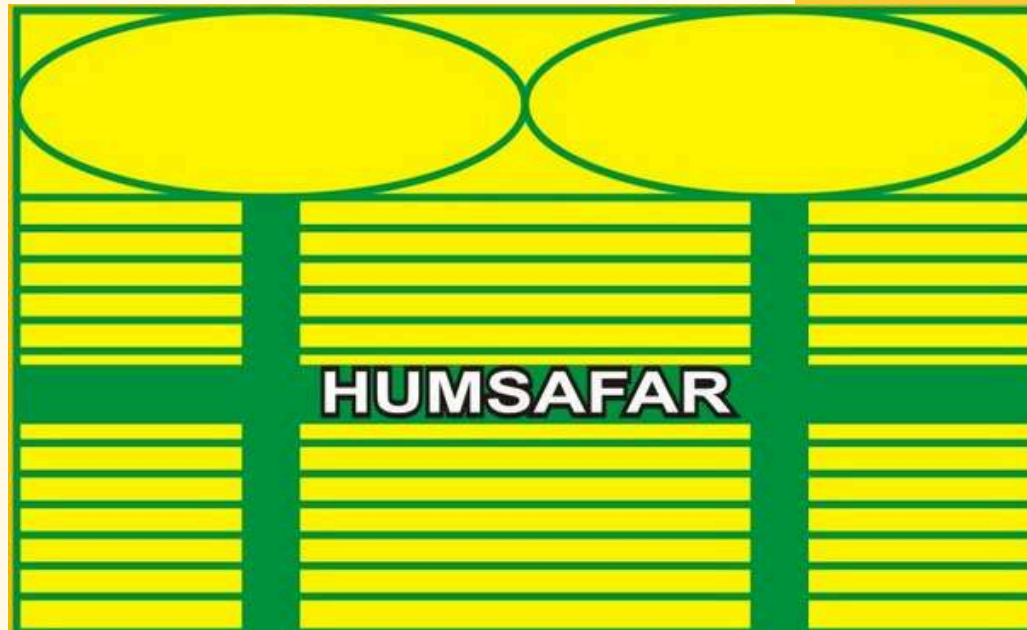
[Video Link](#)

## Short Impact Videos on PEER Leader Project

Two short impact videos have been created under the PEER Leader Project, highlighting the journey of trained peer leaders and the positive changes they have brought to their villages. The films showcase how leaders developed confidence and skills through training, the initiatives they implemented at the village level, and the visible transformation in them and their communities. From capacity building to community action, the videos capture inspiring stories of grassroots leadership and meaningful social impact. These impact stories demonstrate how empowered local leaders can drive process of change within their communities.



[Video link](#)



## Film – Collaboration with Humsafar, Lucknow

Humsafar, Lucknow has approached Abhivyakti for developing a film and poster campaign focusing on domestic violence, particularly highlighting the issue of burn survivors often labeled as “kitchen accidents.” As part of this collaboration, we have begun studying the issue in depth, referring to the research report prepared by Humsafar to better understand the realities, patterns, and systemic challenges surrounding burn survivors and domestic violence. The script writing process has now been initiated, ensuring that the film will sensitively and accurately represent survivor experiences while raising awareness and encouraging dialogue. The production of the film is planned for completion in the next quarter. This initiative aims to create strong visual communication tools that will support advocacy, awareness, and action around the issue of domestic violence and burn survivors.

# Showcasing Girls' Action Research at Stree Mukti Parishad

In the recently held 'Stree Mukti Parishad '2025 (20–22 Nov 2025) in Mumbai, our action research peer team consisting of partner organisations—MASUM, Akshara, SNEHA, and Abhivyakti Media for Development—participated by exhibiting posters on the action research carried by them in their field area.

Based on their research process and findings, each organisation developed a poster highlighting key issues such as girls' education, poor transportation facilities, anaemia, gender violence and other local challenges.

The posters were exhibited at Parishad, creating a platform to share insights, spark interest, and engage with participants on these critical issues—amplifying the voices and leadership of young girls from marginalised communities as community researchers.



# Co-learning



We continue with our work of strengthening the capacities of grassroots functionaries on communication skills, community media and leadership. We recently began the phased six-month course on youth leadership for grassroots youth. Through our close association with youth from these backgrounds, we have consistently observed their immense but untapped potential and a desire to learn, contribute, and make society better. Abhivukti sees this as a critical gap and an opportunity. With our mission of youth leadership development, we are committed to bridging this gap by nurturing the knowledge, skills, attitudes, and collective strength of tribal youth. The leadership course will create nourishing space and processes for deeply committed youth leaders to come together and connect with each other and learn from the interactive course design to understand the deep-rooted structural context and generate eco-system responses for larger transformation.

# Needs Assessment and Orientation workshop

The Youth Leadership Course (YLC) – Phase I Orientation Workshop was organized on 15–16 October at the Leslie Sawhny Training Centre, Deolali. The workshop brought together a diverse group of young participants—boys and girls from different rural backgrounds—each with their unique experiences, questions, and aspirations. The facilitators emphasized co-learning, openness, and mutual respect. Instead of a top-down teaching approach, they used questions, dialogue, and observation. The sessions began with simple, relatable activities that led to deeper reflection. Linkages were made between the workshop and Abhivyakti's broader youth initiatives. Participants saw how the skills they developed here would connect to the work they were already doing in their villages through the Gender Champions and Sahayatri projects. The entire series of sessions created a meaningful journey of self-discovery, learning, and collective reflection for all participants. Each session, though different in theme and method, contributed to shaping a deeper understanding of leadership, gender equality, social awareness, and community engagement. From exploring personal perspectives on leadership and understanding the dynamics of one's village, to reflecting on gender, relationships, and equality, the sessions encouraged participants to think critically about their surroundings and their roles within them. They learned that leadership is not about authority, but about empathy, cooperation, and responsibility.





## Phase Two Workshop on strengthening Leadership Qualities

The Youth Leadership Development Course (YLDC) – Phase 2 workshop was conducted to continue the learning journey that began earlier in October and to strengthen the leadership qualities of young participants. The workshop took place on 13 and 14 November, 2025 at The Leslie Sawhny Training Centre, Deolali. This phase focused on building the next level of understanding, confidence, and leadership behavior among the youth. Through guided interaction, participants were encouraged to express themselves, listen to others, and grow together in a supportive learning atmosphere. The introduction marked the beginning of a deeper exploration of leadership skills and social responsibility, preparing participants for the activities and discussions planned throughout the workshop.



# Phase Three Workshop

The third phase of the Youth Leadership Development Course (YLDC) marked an important continuation of the learning journey that began in Phase 1 and was strengthened further in Phase 2. While Phase 1 focused on orientation, self-reflection, and building a shared understanding of leadership, and Phase 2 emphasized communication, storytelling, gender, and data analysis, Phase 3 was designed to deepen practice, sharpen skills, and bring greater clarity to collective action, documentation, and facilitation. This phase built directly on the experiences, reflections, and responsibilities that participants had already begun to take on in their villages. The third phase marked an important milestone also because it was planned to give more practical understanding about the work these participants would lead in their own villages. The workshop was designed in a way that the participants would engage more in the discussions about the challenges they were facing in building collectives and facilitating sessions with those collective. The YLDC Phase 3 Workshop served as a critical step in strengthening participants' capacity for reflective leadership and conscious social action. Building on the foundations of Phase 1 and the applied learning of Phase 2, this phase emphasized analysis, documentation, facilitation, and clarity of purpose. Participants were encouraged to slow down, reflect deeply, and understand the importance of structure and evidence in social work. By the end of the workshop, participants demonstrated a clearer understanding of their roles and responsibilities within the YLDC journey. They recognized that leadership involves continuous learning, collaboration, and accountability. The workshop reinforced the idea that meaningful change requires patience, reflection, and collective effort. Phase 3 thus strengthened the participants' readiness to move forward with greater awareness, skill, and confidence in their work with communities.





# Community Learning Centre Anandalaya at Dhumodi

The Community Learning Centre aims to inculcate a learning culture amongst the village youth, particularly in girls and women. The centre has a variety of resources and space for reading, critical thinking, dialogue, and learning. We give below the activities implemented during this period.



## Book Display Activity

In the first week of November, we organised a day long event called Book Display activity. It involved displaying books and other material in an eye-catching manner and creating interest on that theme amongst the children. Accordingly, we selected travel as the subject and arranged all the books related to travel on the table and discussing about its various facets with the children. The children who attended showed interest in reading the books on travel and discussing it later.

## Film Screenings

In the first week of December, we screened 'Chirbhog' a film on caste-based discrimination experienced by a young boy during his life. The film explores how the boy experiences discrimination and how it continues in caste-based occupation which the boy resists by continuing his education and later a different livelihood. He struggles to emphasize the need to create an equal, independent society. About 15 villagers were present to see the film and were engaged in lively discussion on the topic. The youth especially recognised the need to complete their education and how it opens the door for transformation. The elders agreed that such discrimination existed in the villages even today.





## Attending the Library Monitoring Support Course

The four-day course on Library Monitoring was organised by Bookworm in Panji, Goa from 15<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> October. The course was attended by the CLC team of Pooja, Kamini and Sandip. About twenty organisations from different parts of the country participated and learned about different aspects of managing a library and ways to monitor it. The workshop also included organising role plays, story-telling methods, how to read a book like a theatre, different genres of books and introducing music in introducing books among other. A visit to Bookworm community centres was also organised. The workshop was meaningful to learn about different methods to make library interesting.

# Learning and Exchange

In the last week of December, SNEHA team from Mumbai came on a two-day visit to Abhivyakti to learn and exchange experiences and insights gathered from work with youth. About 40 SNEHA team members and community youth were present. They learnt about Abhivyakti's work in development communication and work with the grassroots youth leaders. They visited two villages namely, Vinayak nagar and Dhumodi to interact with the community youth and also get first hand experience of Community Learning Centre in Dhumodi. The visit was enriching as it brought two organisations together to understand each others work and explore possible collaboration. The SNEHA team expressed satisfaction over the two-day exchange and learning. They were impressed with the confidence and enthusiasm shown by the Shodhini and Shodak.



# Community Learning centre, Ambai

Abhivyakti has started its second Community Learning Centre at Ambai with the help of WINJIT Technology, Nashik. We present the activities carried out in the CLC.

## Organising Mahaparinirvan Day

We organised the Babasaheb Ambedkar Mahaparinirvan day in the CLC which was attended by many villagers including youth and children. We celebrated the day by discussing Baba Sahebs significance, his work and its importance today. The community members paid their respect to Baba Saheb Ambedkar.





## Film Screening

A film screening of the play 'Utkarshachya Vata' performed by Shodhini and Shodak was screened before a group of boys and girls on the theme of early marriage of girls and the importance of education. The significance of the topic appealed to the young group who was present. The girls voiced their concern about the importance of continuing education and the need for right livelihood. They also agreed to study accordingly to fulfil their dreams. The boys affirmed their commitment to support their sisters and cousins in continuing education and not letting them get married early.

## Promoting Expressions

In the month of November, we invited girls to participate in the exciting activity of creating visual art. Girls drew many forms which reflected their inner desires and longings. The drawings were on different themes related to nature, community living, their homes, careers, etc. Their eager participation and discussion reflected their inner need to do something meaningful and the determination to succeed. The role of the Community Learning Centre is to organise various events that motivate children, youth especially adolescent girls to express and enhance their confidence.





## Visit of 'Nashik Reads' community

The community of Nashik Reads visited the CLC on 28<sup>th</sup> December and donated books and educational material to the library. The members interacted with the children and youth and learnt about the various activities of the CLC.



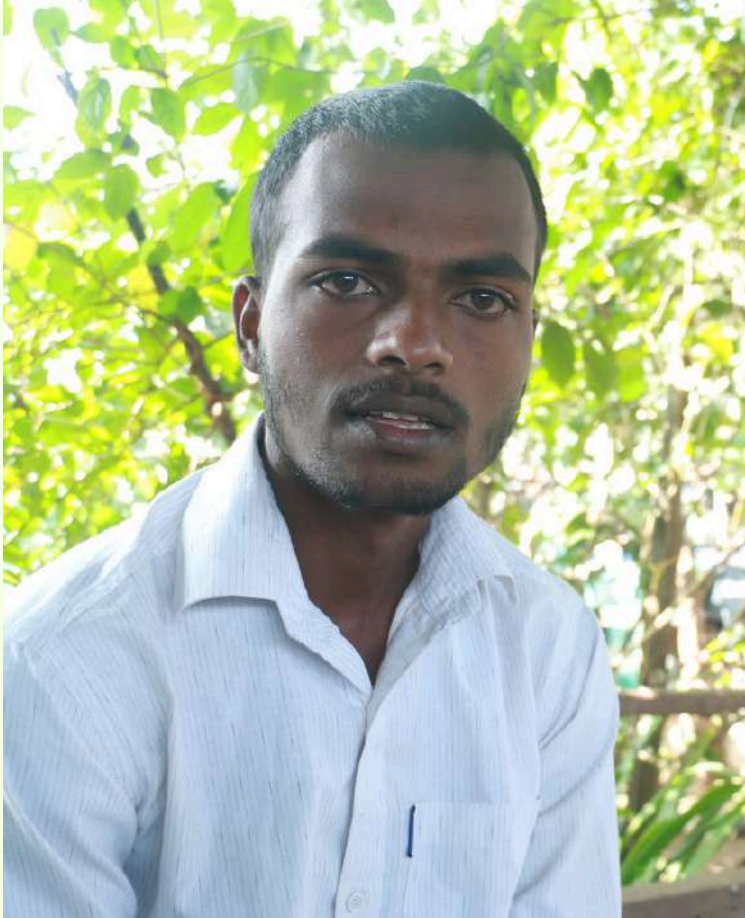
## Gram Panchayat Support

The Gram Panchayat has come forward to support the activities of the CLC. Due to their help, the CLC was painted with active participation of its members. The Gram Panchayat has also bought table and chairs for children to study there. They have also promised more support by way of more chairs, ceiling fan and better light conditions.

# Happenings

1. Abhivyakti's six-monthly review (April 2025 to September 2025) was held on 8th & 9th of October at Abhivyakti office which was facilitated by Anita Borkar.
2. Online webinar on 'Challenges in programme data filing in the new FC-4 form' was organised by Accountable, on 10th November which was facilitated by Mr. Sanjay Agarwal and CA Trithankar Roy and was attended by Bhikan and Mahesh from our account's unit.
3. An Online focussed group discussion on "How today's youth engage with social media and how it influences their lives" was organised by Azim Premji Foundation on 13th November 2025. It was attended by Bhikan and Jitendra from the media unit.
4. Nitin facilitated a six-monthly online AGM of NTL network in October to discuss some of the issues of its members.
5. Shubam Hire represented Abhivyakti in a youth committee formed by SNEHA, Mumbai to discuss issues of mental health faced by the youth in preparation for a planned mental health conference in Mumbai for youth.
6. Nitin was invited by Radio Vishwas, Nashik to share his perspective related to 'Role of Cinema beyond entertainment' on a radio show hosted by Vandana Atre in November.
7. Meeting with Mr. Aamir Raja from Technoforce Solutions Pvt. Ltd., Ambad MIDC, Nashik, for CSR funding exploration, along with Abhivyakti President Pradeep Kshatriya, Bhikan Dandgavhale, and Ranjeet Gadgil, held on 19th December 2025.

## Voices from the Field



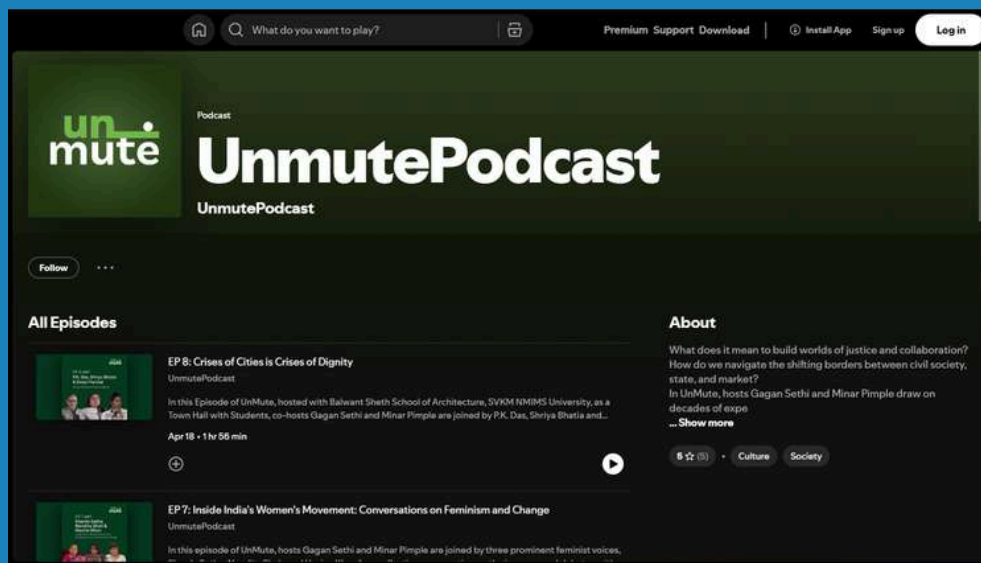
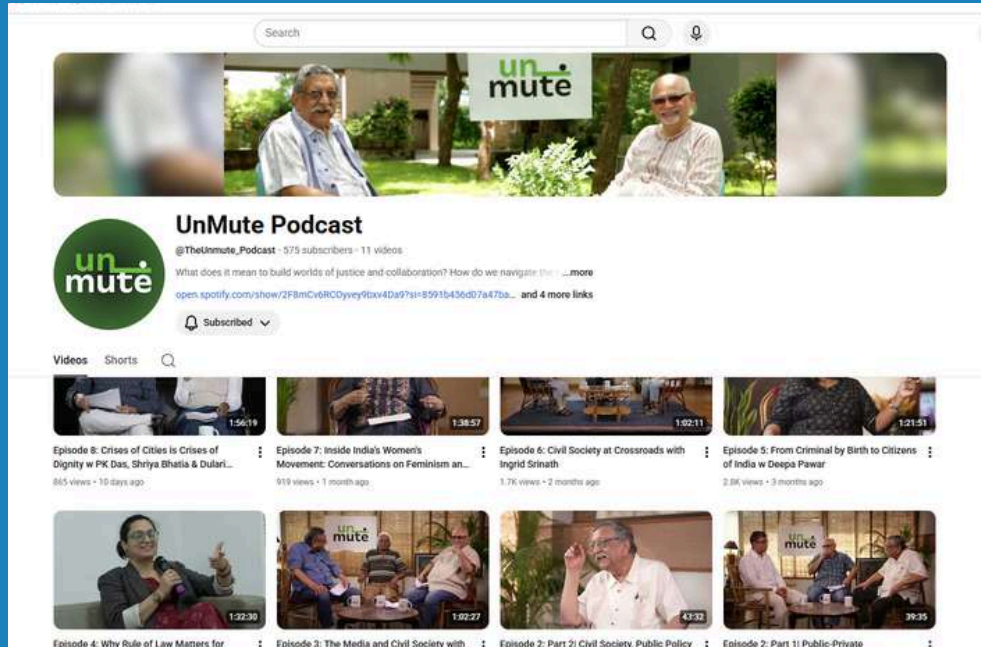
**Kishor Bhoje**

**Garmal Village, Trimbakeshwar**

We bring to your notice a youth leader from the village 'Garmaal' in Trimbakeshwar taluka of Nashik. He is Kishor Bhoje, an important and responsible member of the Village Development Committee. Ever since our initiative to strengthen PESA processes in the villages, Kishor has played an important part in taking it forward. He has attended all our training workshops on PESA and has shared the knowledge with his villagers by organising regular awareness sessions for them. He took active lead in discussing the various aspects of PESA from the importance of Gram Sabha to activating various committees and the crucial Forest Rights Act. He has a flair for articulating it in simple language some of the more challenging part of organising the Gram Sabha in his village. He was successful in persuading the PESA president to initiate the Gram Sabha process on a regular basis which resulted in utilising the PESA funds accordingly in tune with the needs of the villagers. His participatory approach has also resulted in compiling the list for individual forest land claims, updating Aadhar cards and Job cards which will benefit his fellow villagers. Due his eagerness and leadership, the villagers of Garmaal are aware of the various parts of the PESA act. Kishor says, " We need to inform the villagers of the various committees in the Gram Sabha meetings so that the information is shared with the people. We also need to inform the villagers of all the work carried out from the PESA fund". Kishor has set an example by his initiative, dedication and leadership which will inspire others in different villages to come forward and take the lead.

# Art Dekko

We are continuing with this interesting feature of sharing an art form, which is to share information on interesting and experimental art that we have experienced, viewed, or read. It can be a live performance, a cinema, a documentary, a TV series, a publication, or even a digital presence like a podcast. This time we feature a monthly podcast series, 'UnMute' by Gagan Sethi and Minar Pimple, development sector professionals on important issues facing civil society today. It is a timely podcast which brings critical perspective to the fore discussed by mix of guests from the academics, civil society leaders, industry experts, media commentators and grassroots activists. Launched on 2<sup>nd</sup> October, UnMute asks tough questions on some serious socio-economic and political issues and promises great conversations between the hosts and the guest on the show. The podcast so far has featured the inaugural conversation between Gagan and Minar, followed by other episodes on public-private partnership and media and civil society. Do watch it on You Tube and Spotify. Better still, you can subscribe to it on YouTube channel [unmute\\_podcast](#)



# Before we say goodbye

Recently, the popular welfare scheme earlier named MGNREGA (Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act) was renamed. As VB-GRAM (The Vikshit Bharat Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission - Gramin) with the promise of increased days of work. Since the welfare scheme that was introduced way back in 2005, it has been a significant source of employment for rural labour force especially women. According to report, the share of women in total person-days has pointedly increased over the years, rising from 48 % in 2008-09 to nearly 58% in 2024-25. Introduction of services like creche and workplaces being closer to home played key role in women seeking employment under this scheme. Another important factor has been its safe environment and equal wages for men and women. This has attracted rural women in large numbers. This welfare scheme has been an important part in generating employment and in reducing poverty. However, MNREGA achievement are limited to few states which needs to be strengthened. The experience is an important step towards right to work on demand, but there is still a long way to go.

What do you think? How do we promote better environment for employment for women, and inspire more to take its advantage?

Please write to - [admin@abhivyakti.org.in](mailto:admin@abhivyakti.org.in) about your insights, and do visit our website [www.abhivyakti.org.in](http://www.abhivyakti.org.in)



AI-GENERATED

