SASHAKT FOUNDATION
Empower Sustain Prosper

ANNUAL REPORT

2025-26







SASHAKT FOUNDATION

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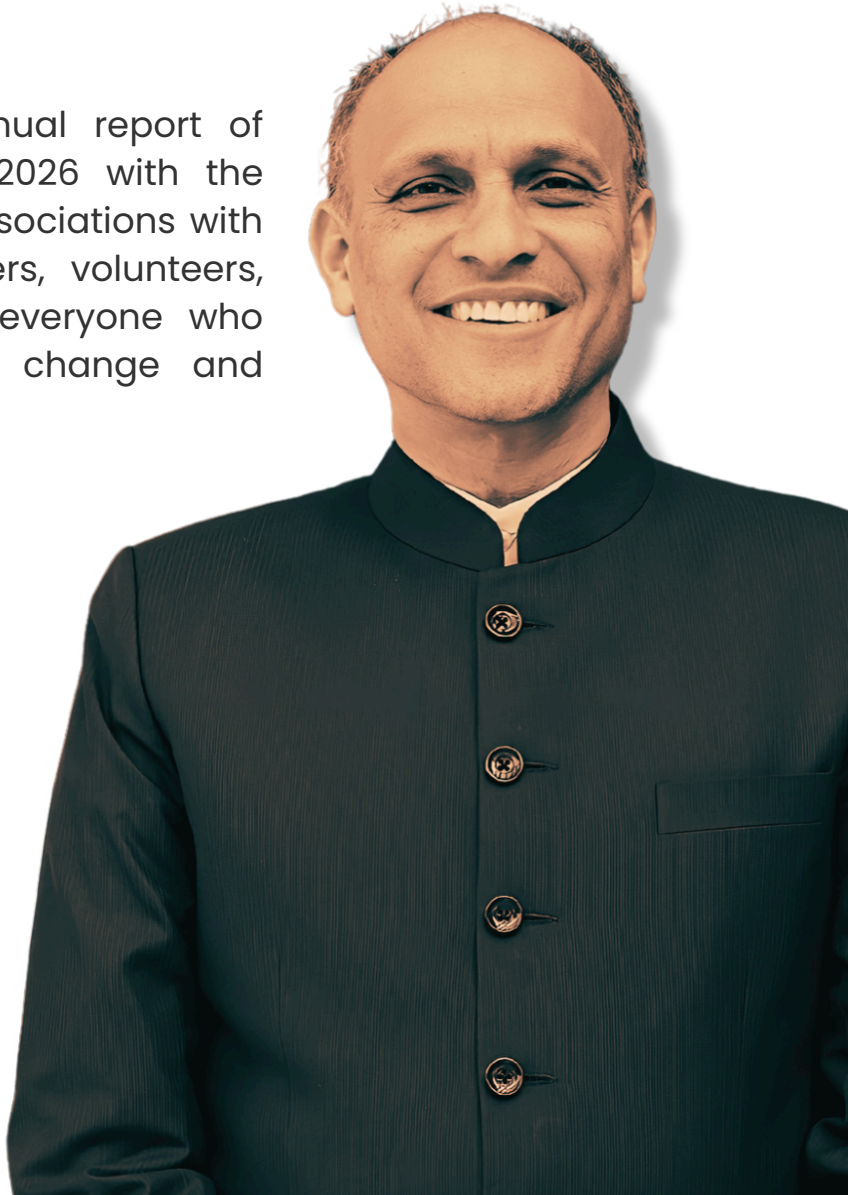
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DONORS

FROM CEO'S DESK

I am very pleased to share the Annual report for FY 25-26 for Sashakt Foundation and the impact that we have been able to create in the lives of the people. We further strengthened our work in Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Delhi NCR, Jharkhand, Bihar & Gujarat. We consolidated our learnings into sustainable programmes in the areas of Sports for Development & Education approach, Adolescent Girls Empowerment, Environment and furthermore. We not only expanded our geographies but also our aspirations and horizons to do better and to do more.

Very happy to share the annual report of Sashakt Foundation for 2025-2026 with the achievements and stories of associations with heartfelt thanks to our partners, volunteers, team members, interns, and everyone who joined us in the journey to change and empowering people.





Climate & Environment

GO GREEN — CLEAN AIR PROGRAMME

Kadipur Industrial Area, Gurugram

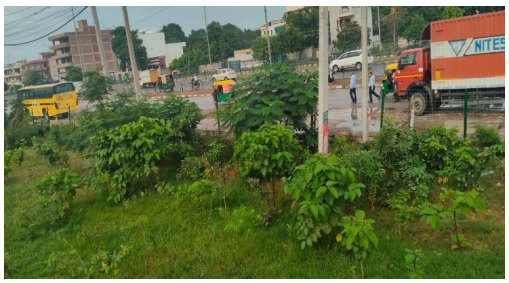
FY 2025-26 marked the third year of implementation of the Go Green - Clean Air Programme in Kadipur Industrial Area, Gurugram. Implemented in partnership since April 2023, the initiative aims to address the environmental and social consequences of rapid urbanization and industrial growth by reclaiming degraded public spaces and transforming them into thriving urban green zones.



Over the years, open community grounds in Kadipur had become dumping sites for municipal and construction waste, unregulated parking areas, and hotspots for anti-social activities. The loss of green cover contributed to declining environmental quality and reduced the safety and usability of these spaces, particularly for women and children. Through a sustained urban afforestation approach, the programme has successfully restored these neglected landscapes into ecologically productive and socially inclusive community assets.

During FY 2025-26, the programme achieved its plantation target of 15,000 saplings, despite the unavailability of one of the initially identified sites due to metro construction activities. By optimizing land utilization across two community grounds spanning nearly five acres, the project successfully met its planting goals without compromising ecological outcomes.

A diverse mix of ten native tree species—including Neem, Peepal, Arjun, Kadam, Jamun, Gulmohar, Kaner, Paapdi, Peelkhand, and Alashoniya—was planted to strengthen biodiversity, improve ecological resilience, and create habitats for local fauna. The programme achieved an impressive 95% sapling survival rate, surpassing the targeted benchmark of 90%. This success was enabled through scientific plantation practices, drip irrigation systems, regular maintenance, and continuous monitoring by forest officials and on-site staff.







One of the most significant achievements of the year was the complete transformation of formerly degraded community spaces into protected green zones. Areas once associated with waste dumping, illegal parking, and substance abuse have been reclaimed and revitalized, resulting in cleaner surroundings, enhanced biodiversity, and improved community well-being. Residents have increasingly taken ownership of these spaces and actively participate in safeguarding the plantations.

The programme also introduced an innovative and humane approach to managing stray cattle by establishing dedicated water and fodder points outside plantation boundaries. This simple yet effective intervention successfully protected young saplings while promoting peaceful coexistence with urban livestock, offering a replicable model for future urban greening initiatives.

Employee engagement remained a key component of the programme. Volunteers from DHL Express participated in four environmental stewardship activities, including site preparation, ground marking, plantation drives, and sapling support installation. Their involvement strengthened employee awareness of environmental issues while fostering meaningful community engagement.

Beyond environmental restoration, the initiative generated tangible social benefits. Community members have reported a visible reduction in anti-social activities and improved accessibility and safety of public spaces. The programme has also created livelihood opportunities, exemplified by the appointment of a full-time gardener responsible for plantation maintenance and ecological stewardship, demonstrating the project's contribution to both environmental and socio-economic development.

As the programme enters its fourth year, its long-term sustainability is supported by three key pillars: dedicated maintenance through trained on-site personnel, the use of resilient native species requiring minimal resource inputs, and strong community ownership of the restored green spaces. The Kadipur urban forest model now stands as a successful example of how collaborative urban greening can improve environmental quality, strengthen community resilience, and create sustainable public assets within industrial landscapes.

GO GREEN — AFFORESTATION AND ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION INITIATIVE

Advancing Climate Action through Large-Scale Native Tree Plantation

During FY 2025-26, Sashakt Foundation, in partnership with DHL Express (India) Pvt. Ltd., continued its commitment to environmental restoration through the Go Green afforestation initiative at the SGSU campus in Desar, Vadodara, Gujarat. Aligned with Sustainable Development Goal 13 (Climate Action), the programme was designed to address the growing challenges of deforestation, biodiversity loss, declining air quality, and land degradation through large-scale plantation and ecosystem regeneration.



The initiative focused on restoring ecological balance through the plantation of native and climate-resilient tree species while creating a sustainable green landscape capable of delivering long-term environmental benefits. Extensive site assessments, soil analysis, species selection, and irrigation planning were undertaken to ensure that plantation efforts were scientifically informed and environmentally sustainable.

A major achievement during the year was the successful plantation of 24,000 native trees, meeting the programme's target in full. More than fifteen native species were selected based on their adaptability to local climatic conditions, biodiversity value, and long-term survival potential. The plantation was supported through organic and sustainable methods, including soil preparation, mulching, irrigation infrastructure, and bamboo-based protection systems. These interventions contributed to an impressive 95% survival rate, significantly strengthening the ecological resilience of the plantation site.

The project has generated substantial environmental benefits by increasing green cover, enhancing biodiversity, improving air quality, and supporting carbon sequestration. The plantation site has evolved into a growing green ecosystem where tree heights have increased substantially during the maintenance period, demonstrating healthy establishment and growth. The initiative also promoted sustainable land management practices through efficient irrigation systems, moisture conservation techniques, and ongoing ecological monitoring.

Collaboration and community participation remained central to the programme's success. Students, faculty members, volunteers, landscaping teams, nursery partners, and local workers collectively contributed to implementation and maintenance activities. The programme also created livelihood opportunities for gardeners, labourers, and nursery suppliers while fostering a stronger sense of environmental stewardship among stakeholders. Employee engagement activities further strengthened awareness around climate action and ecological restoration.

The long-term sustainability of the initiative is anchored in institutional support from SGSU, dedicated maintenance systems, community ownership, and the use of hardy native species requiring limited external inputs. Continuous watering, pruning, monitoring, and plant protection measures are ensuring the healthy growth of the plantation, while active participation from students and volunteers is creating a culture of environmental responsibility on campus.

As the plantation matures, the project is expected to deliver lasting ecological and social value by strengthening biodiversity, improving local environmental conditions, and serving as a replicable model for sustainable afforestation and ecosystem restoration. The successful establishment of 24,000 thriving trees demonstrates how strategic partnerships and community engagement can contribute meaningfully to climate resilience and long-term environmental sustainability.

REVIVAL OF DYING RIVERS IN UTTARAKHAND

Restoring River Ecosystems through Community-Led Afforestation

During FY 2025-26, Sashakt Foundation, with support from ONGC, advanced the Revival of Dying Rivers in Uttarakhand initiative in Pauri Garhwal, a critical watershed region of the Himalayan ecosystem. The programme was conceived to address the growing environmental challenges of soil erosion, declining vegetation cover, drying streams, and reduced water retention caused by deforestation and changing climatic patterns. By combining ecological restoration with community stewardship, the initiative aims to revive river systems, strengthen biodiversity, and improve long-term environmental resilience across vulnerable catchment landscapes.



A major milestone during the year was the successful plantation of 100,000 native trees across more than 27 strategically selected sites located along riverbanks, degraded slopes, watershed zones, and catchment areas. Site selection was undertaken in collaboration with local Panchayats and farming communities to prioritize locations most vulnerable to erosion and ecological degradation. Native species such as Amla, Jamun, Shisham, Bamboo, Malta, Amrud, Kathal, and Anjeer were planted to strengthen ecosystem regeneration while supporting local biodiversity and climate resilience.

The programme integrated technology-driven monitoring with community participation to ensure accountability and long-term sustainability. All plantation sites were successfully geo-tagged using GPS-enabled systems, creating a transparent database of restoration activities and enabling digital monitoring of plantation progress. The development of a geo-spatial monitoring dashboard further strengthened project oversight and provided a scalable model for evidence-based ecological restoration.

Environmental outcomes are already becoming visible across the intervention areas. Improved vegetation cover has contributed to enhanced slope stabilization and reduced surface erosion along riverbanks. Early observations indicate the return of pollinators and small bird species to plantation zones, reflecting gradual ecological recovery and habitat improvement. The initiative is expected to contribute significantly to groundwater recharge, improved water retention, and long-term river rejuvenation in the region.



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Miyawaki Plantation

In the bustling urban landscape of Ahmedabad, Gujarat, Gujarat Energy Transmission Corporation (GETCO) Limited with Sashakt Foundation embarked on a transformative journey to create green pockets using the innovative Miyawaki technique in the previous year. This ambitious project spans 36 months, encompassing preparatory, rollout, and maintenance phases. The project's mission is to regenerate ecosystems, enhance biodiversity, and develop a sustainable model for urban forest regeneration. As the project transitioned into the maintenance phase, the achievements and ongoing efforts of Sashakt Foundation highlight the potential for urban green spaces to thrive amidst concrete jungles. The Miyawaki technique, named after the Japanese botanist Akira Miyawaki, involves planting dense, native forests that grow rapidly and require minimal maintenance after the initial years. Sashakt Foundation adopted this technique to address the pressing need for green spaces in urban settings. The project aimed to enhance ecosystem regeneration, increase biodiversity, and preserve local flora and fauna. By developing a model for urban forest regeneration, the foundation sought to inspire similar initiatives in other urban and rural areas. The project has already achieved significant milestones, including an 80% survival rate for the planted saplings and a thriving mixed-species forest. The forest not only enhances local biodiversity but also serves as a model for similar projects in other urban and rural areas. Sashakt Foundation's Miyawaki Forest Project exemplifies the potential for urban green spaces to thrive and contribute positively to the environment. By adopting an innovative technique and engaging in meticulous planning and execution, the foundation has created a thriving green pocket in the heart of Ahmedabad. As the project progresses, it stands as a beacon of hope and inspiration for similar initiatives, demonstrating that with dedication and community involvement, urban landscapes can be transformed into vibrant, sustainable ecosystems. Through continued efforts, Sashakt Foundation remains committed to nurturing this green oasis and promoting biodiversity for a sustainable future







School Based Programmes

BOUNCE OF JOY (BOJ) 2.0

Bounce of Joy (BOJ) 2.0 was a large-scale sports-based education and youth development initiative implemented by Sashakt Foundation in collaboration with ITC Limited across three states—Bihar, Jharkhand, and Uttar Pradesh. Building upon the success and learnings of the first phase, BOJ 2.0 significantly expanded its reach and impact by creating stronger and more inclusive sports ecosystems within government schools and underserved communities.



The programme was implemented across five districts—Muzaffarpur, Munger, Ranchi, Saharanpur, and Gautam Buddha Nagar—covering 250 schools and directly engaging more than 90,000 students through structured sports, fitness, and life-skill interventions. Through inter-school tournaments, community engagement activities, awareness campaigns, and outreach events, the programme further impacted over 1.2 lakh individuals including parents and community stakeholders.

BOJ 2.0 aimed to promote holistic child development by integrating sports, physical fitness, leadership development, and socio-emotional learning into school ecosystems. Football was used as the primary medium of engagement due to its accessibility, inclusivity, and ability to foster teamwork, discipline, resilience, communication, and confidence among children and adolescents from underserved backgrounds.

The programme followed a collaborative school-based implementation model involving Sashakt Foundation's trained Youth Coaches (YCs), school-nominated Physical Education (PE) teachers, and student leaders including captains and vice-captains. Together, these stakeholders formed BOJ Clubs within schools, creating decentralized structures for peer-led learning, sports participation, and leadership development. This approach contributed to a significant increase in sports participation across students, teachers, and school communities while strengthening institutional ownership of sports activities within schools.

Structured Sports for Development (S4D) sessions were implemented across all 250 schools, ensuring inclusive participation irrespective of athletic background or ability. Students participated in regular fitness routines, football drills, team-based activities, and thematic sessions focusing on leadership, gender inclusion, emotional well-being, discipline, communication, teamwork, and goal-setting. The programme also played an important role in encouraging children to spend more time in active play and physical activity, contributing to reduced screen time, improved attendance, and healthier daily routines among students.

To strengthen long-term sports engagement, BOJ 2.0 supported football infrastructure creation in selected schools and provided sports kits and football equipment to all 250 intervention schools. This ensured universal access to structured sports activities and enabled schools to conduct regular football and fitness sessions independently. The programme also expanded the competitive sports ecosystem through intra-school matches, inter-school football competitions, and district-level tournaments, creating opportunities for participation, teamwork, confidence-building, and community engagement.

A major strength of the programme was its emphasis on gender inclusion and social change. Girls' participation in football sessions, tournaments, and leadership roles increased significantly across intervention schools, contributing to positive shifts in perceptions around girls' involvement in sports within both schools and communities.

Impact Highlights

- Significant increase in regular participation in sports and physical activities among students, schools, and community members
- Strong expansion of structured sports activities, tournaments, and community-level engagement platforms
- Improved availability and access to sports equipment and infrastructure across schools
- Greater inclusion and participation of girls in sports, along with stronger family and community support
- Positive improvements observed in student discipline, confidence, teamwork, attentiveness, and overall school engagement
- Sports activities contributed to improved student attendance and increased participation in school events and classroom activities
- Teachers demonstrated improved confidence and capacity in conducting structured sports sessions and organizing tournaments
- Sports became more integrated within school systems through regular sports periods, timetable inclusion, and institutional support
- Increased awareness around hygiene, nutrition, physical fitness, and healthy lifestyle practices among students and communities
- The programme contributed to creating a more inclusive, participatory, and sustainable sports culture within schools and communities







Overall, Bounce of Joy 2.0 successfully established a vibrant, inclusive, and scalable sports ecosystem across five districts and three states. By institutionalizing football and structured physical activity within government school systems, the programme strengthened physical well-being, leadership, life skills, school engagement, and community participation while laying the foundation for long-term behavioural and system-level change.

IMPROVING QUALITY OF EDUCATION

by setting up smart classrooms in schools in Delhi NCR

Improving Quality of education by setting up smart classrooms in schools project is supported by Regal Rexnord India Private Limited. The project is based in Delhi NCR area.

Background: The CAG report of 2022 shows high drop-out rates of students along with crumbling infrastructure, chronic teacher absenteeism and very low learning outcomes. The NEP emphasizes holistic education which focuses on the development of a conducive learning environment for the students. The UNESCO 2021 State of Education Report' said that only 22 per cent of schools in India have the overall availability of digital infrastructure, with rural areas having the share of 18%.

According to the Unified District Information System for Education Plus (UDISE+) less than one in five schools had working computers, i.e., 5% of government schools had working computers. Out of which only 13.6% have internet facilities. ASER reports point out that in rural areas, 96.7% of schools did not have computers available for students use. The latest ASER report also mentions how there is a phenomenon of "A National Math Problem" about how after the pandemic, students in class 5 found it difficult to solve basic math problems. All India figures suggest that from 2014 to 2018, there had been a gradual improvement in both basic reading and math. However, this was interrupted by the pandemic years.



Nationally, children's basic reading ability has dropped to pre-2012 levels, reversing the slow improvement achieved in the intervening years. Drops are visible in both government and private schools in most states, and for both boys and girls. The existing system of pedagogy applied in government schools lack a sustainable education system and effective learning interventions to make students skilled and empowered which sooner or later holds back their ambition towards achieving their better potential.

To minimize these learning gaps in the schools, Sashakt Foundation is designed a project to equip the school and teachers with resources that will support them in aiding their teaching methodologies which will help in effective learning in students. This will be achieved by:

- Infrastructural support by equipping schools with Smart classrooms and e-content.
- Train teachers on using Smart classrooms, e-content and teaching skills.





In this year the project has been initiated by identification of the schools by undertaking gap assessment study based on indices related to availability digital infrastructure in school, strength of the school, school drop out, absenteeism etc. In the coming year the 50 schools will be digitized by setting up of smart classrooms and teachers will be provided with capacity building sessions on usage and application of the smart classroom and e-content.



Youth Skilling in Sustainability

YOUTH SKILLING IN SUSTAINABILITY

Supported by Gujarat State Seeds Corporation Ltd., the Youth Skilling in Sustainability initiative was implemented by Sashakt Foundation in Anand and Kheda districts of Gujarat with the objective of equipping youth with sustainability-focused skills, enhancing employability, and fostering environmental leadership. The programme addressed the dual challenge of youth unemployment and environmental degradation by creating opportunities for young people to become change-makers in their communities.

The programme commenced with a comprehensive needs assessment and skill gap survey involving more than 770 youth. The survey identified significant demand for technical sustainability skills, leadership development, and accessible training opportunities. Based on these findings, Sashakt Foundation designed a structured curriculum covering environmental awareness, waste management, carbon markets, sustainable livelihoods, and community leadership.



Over the course of the project, 500 youth were trained through a combination of classroom learning, practical demonstrations, group exercises, field exposure visits, and community-based activities. Participants developed knowledge and skills related to climate action, biodiversity conservation, waste segregation and recycling, circular economy practices, carbon credit mechanisms, green entrepreneurship, and sustainable employment pathways. The training approach emphasized experiential learning, ensuring that participants could translate knowledge into practical action within their communities.

A key achievement of the programme was the emergence of a cadre of informed and motivated youth leaders capable of driving local sustainability initiatives. Through project planning exercises, advocacy sessions, and community engagement activities, participants learned to identify environmental challenges, design practical solutions, and mobilize local stakeholders. The programme also promoted an entrepreneurial outlook by demonstrating how sustainable practices such as composting, resource recovery, waste management, and environmental services can generate livelihood opportunities.

The initiative has contributed to increased environmental awareness, improved understanding of sustainable resource management, enhanced leadership and communication skills, and strengthened pathways¯ toward green employment and entrepreneurship. By combining skill development with environmental stewardship, the programme has created a foundation for long-term community impact while contributing to Sustainable Development Goals 4 (Quality Education), 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), and 13 (Climate Action). The successful completion of the project demonstrates the potential of youth-led sustainability action in creating both economic and environmental value for communities.





Adolescent Girls Empowerment Programme (AGEP)- Ranchi

ADOLESCENT GIRLS EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMME (AGEP)- RANCHI

Since 2024, the Adolescent Girls Empowerment Programme (AGEP) has been creating safe, inclusive, and empowering spaces for adolescent girls across Ranchi district, Jharkhand. Implemented across 2 blocks and 5 Panchayats, the programme has directly engaged 500 adolescent girls through regular community-based sessions, leadership activities, and mentorship support.



The programme focuses on strengthening girls' knowledge, confidence, and decision-making abilities through thematic sessions on education, health, nutrition, menstrual hygiene, emotional wellbeing, life skills, gender awareness, and 21st century skills. Using sports as participatory and activity-based methodologies, AGEP encourages girls to openly discuss their challenges, build peer support systems, and develop leadership capabilities within their communities.

A key highlight of the programme has been the establishment of 5 Adolescent Club Centres (ACCs) that function as safe learning and sharing spaces for girls. Each ACC is supported by a dedicated Youth Leader, while all centres are collectively guided by a Youth Mentor who provides continuous handholding, mentorship, and support in addressing issues faced by adolescent girls. These centres have become trusted community platforms where girls regularly gather to learn, share experiences, and access guidance in a supportive environment.

The programme has also promoted leadership and participation among adolescent girls by encouraging them to take ownership of activities, discussions, and community engagement initiatives. Through continuous engagement with communities, schools, and local stakeholders, AGEP is contributing towards building informed, confident, and empowered young girls who are better equipped to make decisions related to their health, education, and future aspirations.

Implemented by Prayatna, AGEP continues to strengthen adolescent wellbeing and community support systems in Ranchi through a holistic and adolescent girl-cantered approach.





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Thank You!

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