



14 Trees





*Transforming barren
Indian lands into
thriving forest ecosystems.*

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From the Founder's Desk



This year has been a defining chapter in the journey of 14 Trees. If I were to describe it in one phrase, I would call it the year of Workcations. We hosted three immersive Workcations with designers around India. These were not routine workshops — they were living laboratories of creativity.

Designers, artists and thinkers stepped into the landscape of 14 Trees and responded to it with curiosity and imagination.

At 14 Trees, creativity is not an accessory to our environmental work — it is our differentiator. It is what makes us unique. Through these Workcations, we witnessed ideas take root just like the trees we plant: music composed from bird calls, spatial concepts emerging from natural materials, and storytelling that deepened our relationship with biodiversity. These engagements reaffirmed that ecological restoration and creative expression can meaningfully strengthen one another.

Another significant milestone this year was moving into our permanent office at Vishvakalyan. The name itself feels symbolic. Vishvakalyan in Hindi translates to “the welfare of the world.” It is a sheer coincidence — yet a deeply meaningful one. As an organisation committed to ecological restoration and community well-being, working from a space whose very name reflects our purpose feels both grounding and inspiring.

This year has been about roots and wings — deepening our foundations while expanding our creative horizons. As we step into the coming year, we carry forward this spirit of innovation, collaboration, and collective well-being.

With gratitude to our partners, donors, volunteers, and team members who make this journey possible.

— Founder, 14 Trees Foundation

Our Impact So Far

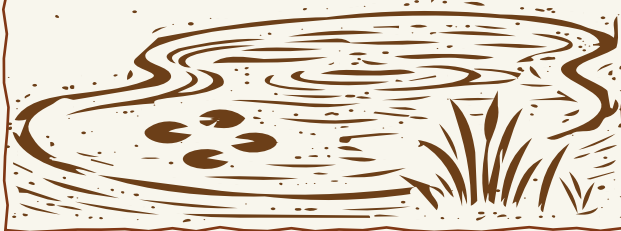
2,000+ Acres Restored



3,00,000+ Trees planted



130+ Ponds



500+ Native species



300+ Biodiversity



300+ Tribals employed



70+ Villages adopted



22 Taluka | 2 Districts



40+ CSR donors



300+ Individual donors



10 Microventures



**600+ Site Visits
6000+ Visitors**



6+ Events



**8000+ Gift Cards
Celebrated**



**4+ Academic
Partnerships**



**7+ Foundation
Partnerships**



Overview

“Re-forest India by creating forests on uncultivable and barren land”

- 14 Trees Foundation Mission

Project 14 Trees is a grassroots effort for ecology restoration and nature conservation.

Our mission is to undo the damage caused to Nature by humans, regrow forests on ecologically devastated patches of land, restore ecology, rebuild biodiversity, generate sustainable livelihoods, inspire all stakeholders (tribals, villagers, urban dwellers) to engage, act and promote harmonious, sustainable coexistence with nature.

The project started in 2013 in village Vetale in Khed, Pune India. The piece of land as shown in the



picture was barren, rocky, without soil and had no access to water. Today, the same land as shown in the picture hosts a lush green forest with 500+ native trees. This remarkable transformation has been achieved in eight years relying only on rain water — without bringing piped water from outside, without transporting water using tankers and without digging bore-wells.

It took several years to carry out proof of concept and *14 Trees* was officially registered in June 2021.

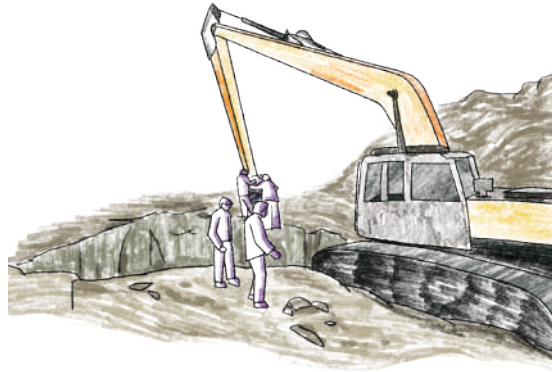


14 Trees Method

Reforestation Steps



1. Plot identification for plantation.



2. Pond creation with no water sources.



3. Pit digging and preparation of land.



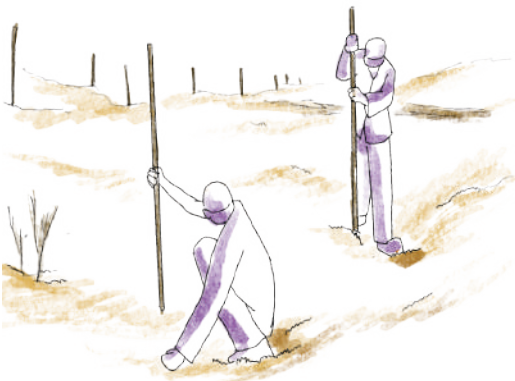
4. Identification & Selection of saplings



5. Plantation of saplings.



6. Watering & plant maintenance.

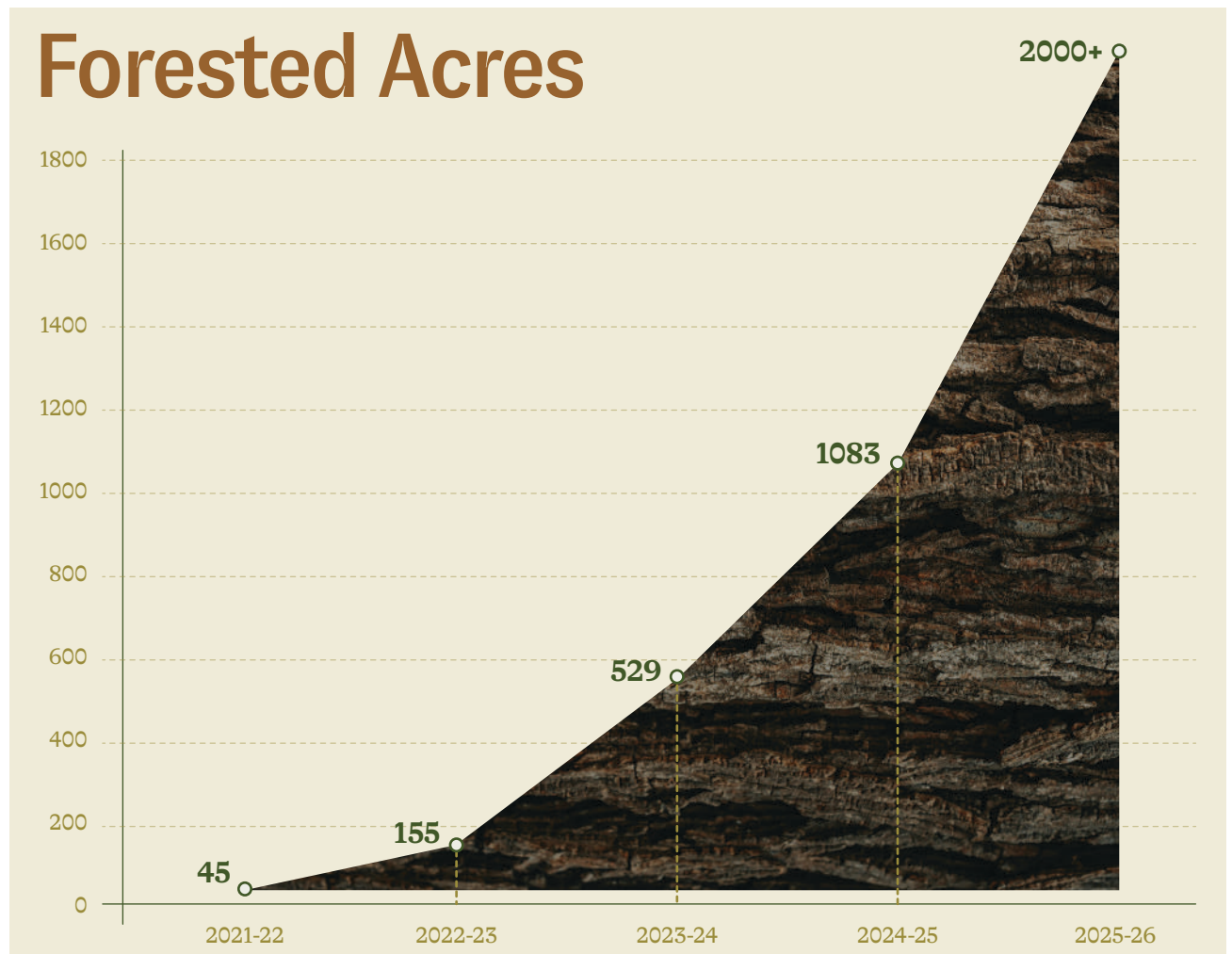


7. Compound /protection measures.



8. Plant Fire Safety Measures.

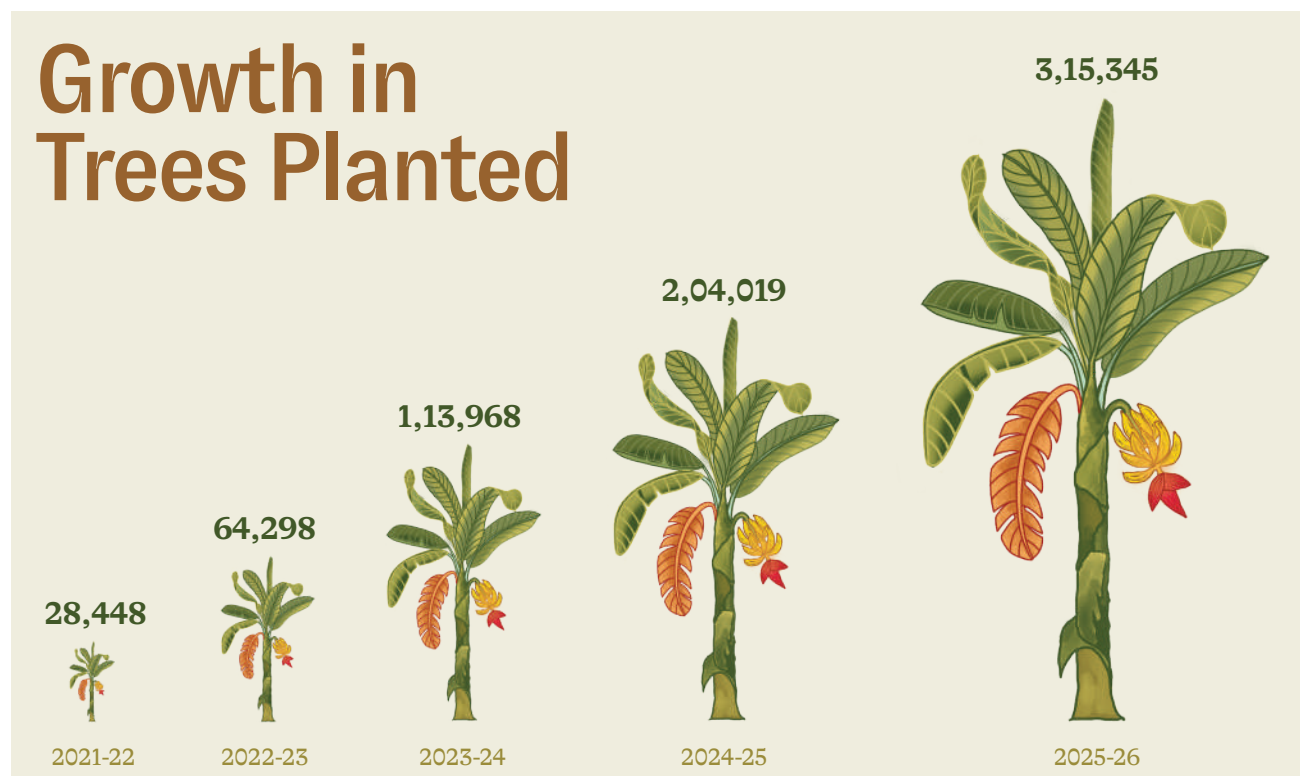
Forested Acres



The chart depicts the growth of forest cover (in acres) since 2021.

We began in 2013 with just four acres of uncultivable land. Today, this has grown to 2000+ acres, with over 130+ water ponds (holding ~156 million litres) and 3,00,000+ native trees, impacting more than sixty surrounding villages.

Growth in Trees Planted



This chart depicts the number of trees planted since 2021.

Growth in ponds

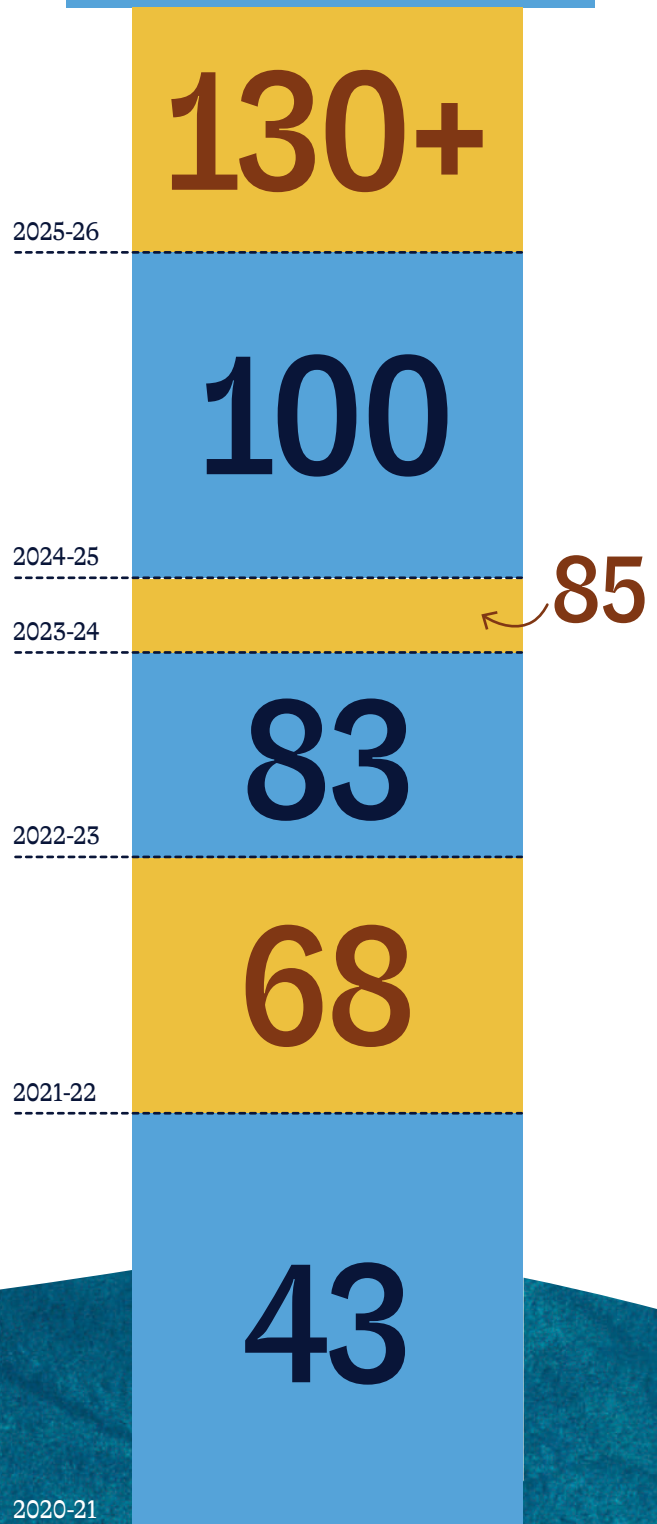
There was no visible growth in our ponds from 2013 to 2015 due to degraded land and lack of water. Borewell attempts failed, leading us to rely entirely on rainwater harvesting.

After the first set of ponds were created, it took nearly three years for water to begin sustaining on the land. Plantation activity picked up thereafter, reflecting the non-linear nature of restoring barren ecosystems.

This non-linearity is also visible in how the forest develops. Unlike organised plantations, a natural forest grows unevenly—with varying density, open patches, and layered vegetation—resulting in 250–400 trees per acre.

Our approach to designing storage and percolation ponds evolved over time. Pond locations are planned so that each acre has access to a nearby water source. While storage ponds capture rainwater, percolation ponds allow it to seep into the ground, gradually raising the water table and creating suitable conditions for reforestation.

The chart depicts the growth of ponds since 2020



Gazebo

On 5 April 2025, Mr. V.B.S. Mani commissioned our first gazebo installation at his farmhouse. This pilot project, along with his valuable feedback, played a crucial role in refining both our commercial approach and installation processes.

It marked an important step in shaping our emerging woodwork micro-venture. Our eco-friendly gazebo reflects a thoughtful blend of sustainability and design. Constructed using biodegradable, locally sourced materials, it features a thatched grass roof, bamboo rafters, and sturdy rammed-earth walls. The circular, open-air structure enables natural ventilation while offering panoramic views of the surrounding landscape. Designed for ease and efficiency, the gazebo can be assembled quickly with minimal tools and, at the end of its lifecycle, returns harmlessly to the earth.



Containers

The images of the container structures reflect the current on-site living conditions of the families of our site workers, who play a vital role in the implementation and upkeep of the project. These temporary shelters serve as their

homes during the course of their engagement on-site. At present, such container-based accommodations are in use across multiple gairan locations, including Peth, Devtorane, Pur, and Avsari.



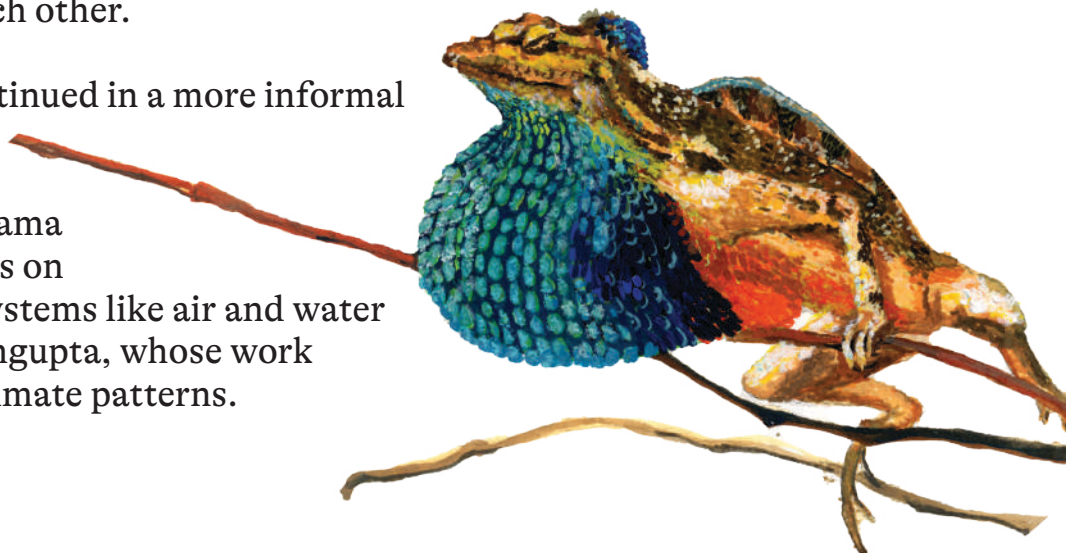
Workcation-1



WorkCation for Climate Action 1 took place from 14th to 20th April 2025 at Nrityagram, bringing together 12 artists from across India along with 4 volunteers from 14 Trees Foundation. The idea was simple: create a space where people could do their creative work, while also engaging with new perspectives on climate and sustainability.

During the week, the group visited the [International Centre for Theoretical Sciences](#), where they interacted with Rajesh Gopakumar, who leads the institute. He spoke about how even something as simple as a [blackboard](#) can become a shared space for ideas- where science and creativity can come together and build on each other.

These conversations continued in a more informal way through “coffee pe charcha” sessions with two climate scientists- Rama Govindarajan, who works on understanding natural systems like air and water flows, and Debashish Sengupta, whose work focuses on oceans and climate patterns.



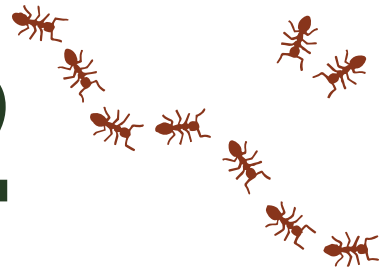
These sessions helped translate complex climate concepts into relatable discussions, allowing participants to connect their own creative practices with environmental challenges.



The WorkCation wrapped up on 20th April with a public event at the Museum of Art and Photography, where participants shared their work with a wider audience.



Workcation-2



WorkCation for Climate Action 2 took place from 2nd to 9th November 2025 at the 14 Trees Foundation site in Pune, once again bringing together a small group of artists and designers to work closely within the reforested landscape.

Being on-site shaped the experience in a meaningful way- from daily walks through the forest, guided by team members and local staff, helping participants understand native species, biodiversity, and the long-term effort behind restoring the land. These interactions made climate action feel tangible, and grounded the creative work in real context rather than abstraction.



This translated into a range of applied design outputs where participants developed a series of projects like:



A CSR gifting box that communicates impact in a simple, tangible way, turning the box itself into a visual experience that reflects the forest and reinforces each partner's contribution to climate action.



A Forest of Memories zine was created to convey the emotional & ecological significance of tree planting. Each tree carries a personal story, marking birthdays, marriages, anniversaries, and so on, collectively transforming a once barren landscape into a thriving forest.

A wedding grove illustration inspired by the trees planted was adapted into textile print design in the form of table runners and bags.



Workcation-3



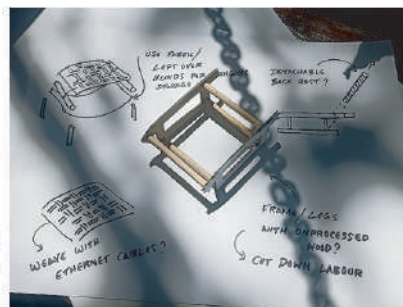
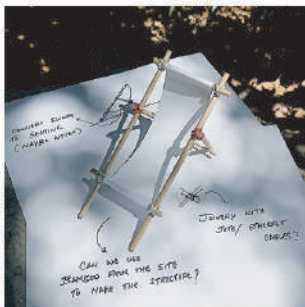
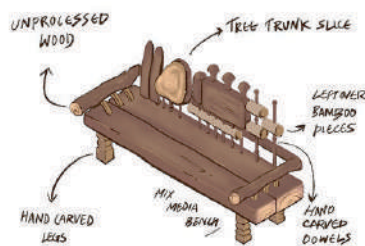
WorkCation for Climate Action 3 took place from 21st to 28th February 2026 at the 14 Trees Foundation site in Pune, continuing the on-site, hands-on format of the previous edition. This edition focused on expanding the forest's presence beyond the physical space- into digital, spatial, and functional design.

As with earlier editions, time spent on-site- through walks, observations, and conversations with the team played a key role in shaping ideas and grounding them in the realities of the landscape.



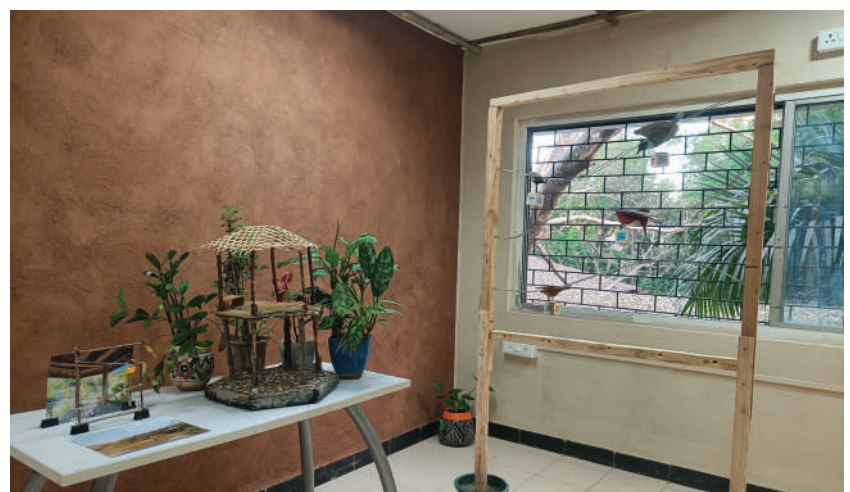
The outcomes made during this week spread across mediums and reflected this mix of experimentation and application:

An animated landing page was also explored to translate the physical forest into a digital experience moving from a cluttered interface to a more intuitive system that uses storytelling elements.

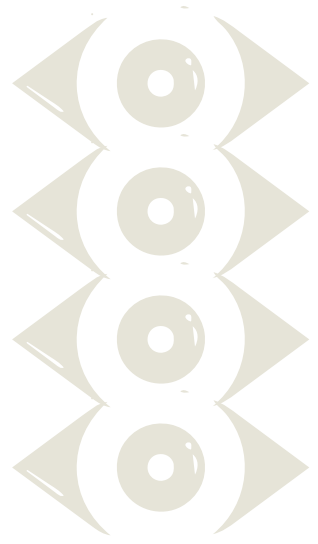


On the product side, participants designed and prototyped three pieces of furniture using recycled and locally available materials, including wire, on-site wood, & repurposed fabrics.

Spatial explorations included early prototypes for an on-site birding experience & installation, integrating learning with interaction.



Highlights



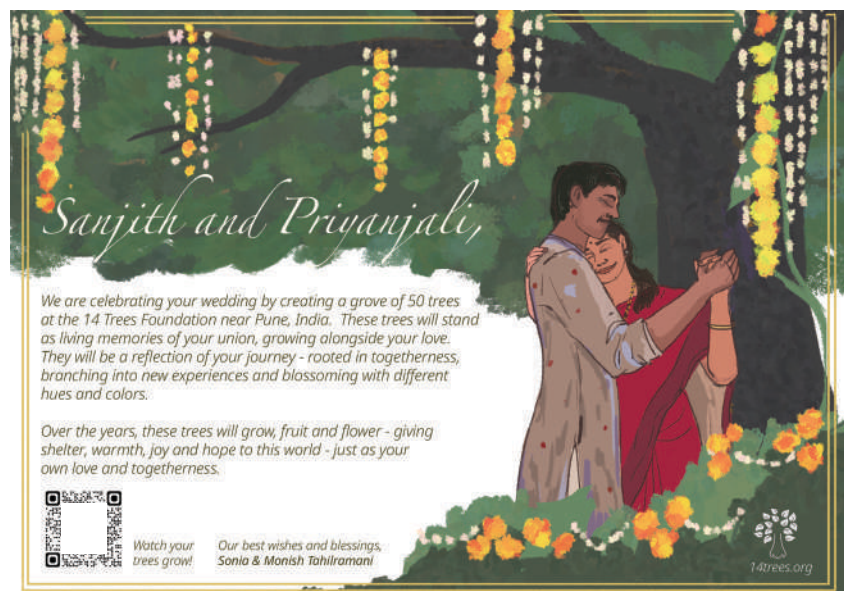
This year saw several important milestones and engagements.

1. We hosted volunteer onboarding sessions, and participated in events such as Kirloskar's Earth Week. We also organised a screening of [Through Our Eyes](#), creating space for reflection and dialogue around climate action.
2. In partnership with Sprih, we also extended our tree card initiative to events such as EW25, where a tree was planted in honor of every speaker—turning participation into measurable climate action.



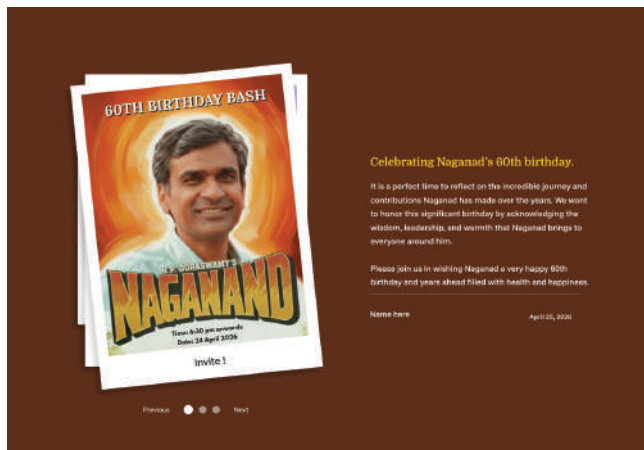
Sustainable Gifting

This year, Wedding Groves truly gained momentum, with a significant rise in requests for sustainable gifting. In several weddings, every guest received a 14 Trees gift card as a return gift, and a tree was planted in the name of each attendee—collectively creating a thriving Wedding Grove that celebrates love while giving back to the planet.

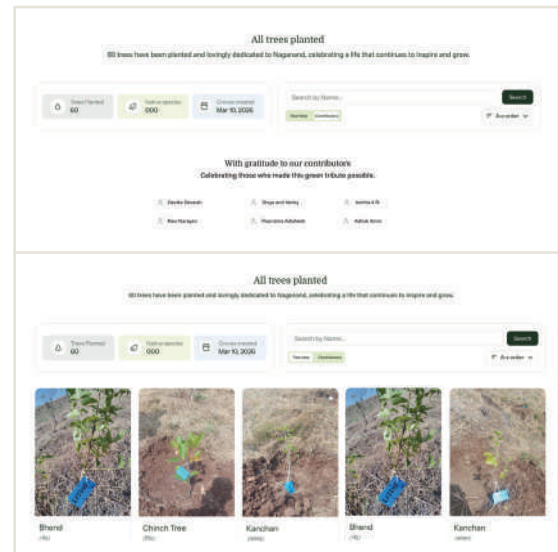


Milestone birthday portals:

We significantly upgraded our digital dashboard experience, creating a more visually engaging and user-friendly platform compared to the previous version. Beyond improving overall design and functionality, we also developed a series of customized dashboards tailored to specific donor engagement initiatives and milestone events. Notable examples include dedicated dashboards created to celebrate a donor's 60th birthday and a special dashboard for the IIT Bombay reunion initiative. These personalized dashboards helped present impact stories, restoration progress, and contribution data in a meaningful and memorable way, strengthening stakeholder engagement and enhancing the overall donor experience.



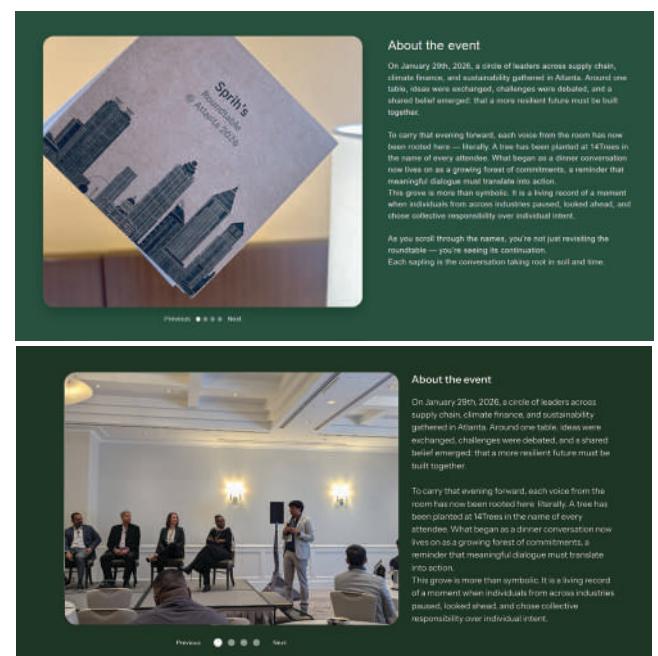
Birthday Dashboard



Self serve portals:

This year, we introduced self-serve digital event portals designed to transform one-time gatherings into long-term environmental commitments. Whether it was a leadership roundtable, corporate gathering, milestone celebration, reunion, or community event, each portal became a personalized space where participants could see the collective impact created through their involvement.

These portals connected people, stories, and restoration efforts in a meaningful way. Event participants could explore dedicated pages like the purpose of the gathering, attendee acknowledgements, plantation details, and the living



impact created in their name through tree plantation and ecosystem restoration. Rather than remaining a temporary moment, each event evolved into a lasting contribution rooted in the landscape.

SUSTAINABLE STORIES OF CHANGE

1-NEW OFFICE IN AUNDH, PUNE

14 Trees Foundation marked a significant milestone with the inauguration of its new office space at Vishvakalyan on 31 October 2026. The choice of location reflects a deeper alignment with our values and vision, making it more than a coincidence that we now call Vishvakalyan our home.

The space was thoughtfully brought to life through the efforts of Pravin, Anita, and Anuya, along with architect Amruta Naidu and Devashri . Staying true to our commitment to sustainability, the interiors and furniture have been created using refurbished materials, while the paints used are eco-friendly, natural, and sustainable.

Subtle bamboo elements have also been incorporated into the design, serving as a reminder of our Vetale site and grounding the space in the ethos of our on-ground work.

This office stands as a physical manifestation of our principles—where design, functionality, and sustainability come together in harmony.



2-NEW SITE OFFICE IN VETALE

A new office space for Anant, our Site Manager, has been thoughtfully created at the project site, reflecting our commitment to resource efficiency and contextual design. The structure is built using locally available stone that emerged during the rock-blasting process undertaken for pond development. By repurposing this material, we have not only minimized waste but also rooted the construction in the natural character of the landscape. Beyond its functional role, the space also serves as a knowledge and conservation hub through the inclusion of a seed bank.

This seed bank showcases a curated collection of native species, supporting our broader efforts in ecological restoration and biodiversity conservation. It stands as a living repository, enabling learning, preservation, and future propagation of region-specific flora.



3-NEW BATHROOMS IN VETALE



At the Vetale site, the decade-old bamboo bathrooms were recently replaced as part of ongoing infrastructure upgrades. While the structures had served their purpose over the years, the transition presented an opportunity to reinforce our commitment to circular resource use.

The bamboo recovered from the old toilets has been carefully repurposed to create fencing for the nursery area. This approach not only reduces material waste but also extends the lifecycle of natural resources already in use.

Media releases this year

1 A YouTube series on world environment day- 5th June 25:



a. How we are recreating the forest we've lost

Through media coverage, 14 Trees has been able to communicate its larger vision of not just planting trees, but rebuilding native forest ecosystems of the Sahyadris and working closely with local communities so that birds, insects, and other life can return and thrive.

b. Entrepreneurship: Innovating for a sustainable future at 14 Trees

14 Trees exists as a living lab for sustainability- where we actively experiment with ecology restoration, design, and entrepreneurship on the ground. This approach has led to the incubation of initiatives like 8 Naturals and Sprih.



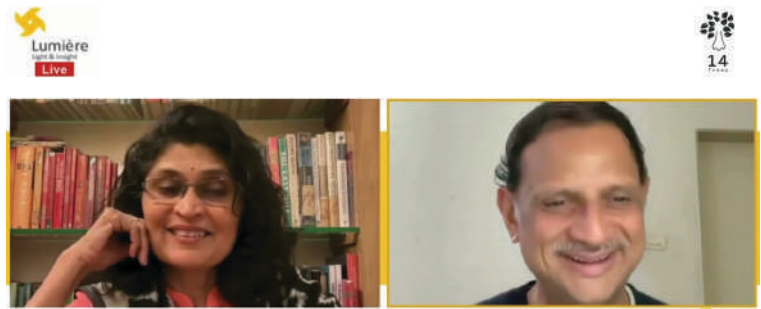
c. Transforming barren land into a thriving forest : #14Trees way

We started with barren land that dried after the monsoon and used rainwater harvesting to gradually recharge the ground. Due to this, the biodiversity improved- bird species rising from about 15 to over 85.



2 Lumiere Learning Monday:

14 Trees was invited to [Lumiere Learning Monday](#), where Pravin Bhagwat shared his journey from technology to ecological restoration, highlighting how small, consistent actions can lead to large-scale impact.



3 The BarberShop with Shantanu:

On Shantanu Deshpande's (founder of Bombay Shaving Company) [podcast](#), Pravin shares a more personal journey- moving from building a successful tech company with Kiran Deshpande to stepping away and focusing on restoring forests.

4 Neil & Momo podcast:

On [The Root Cause podcast](#), Pravin explores how our work is shaped by long-term thinking, community participation, and efforts to bridge the rural-urban divide- offering a grounded perspective on how collaborative, on-the-ground climate action can evolve.



Collaborations

Academic:

Arushi Merhotra and Tatiana from MIT, USA coming to 14 Trees for an internship as a course requirement from college—they worked on AI program using Google Vision APIs for image to text conversion for automated updates of site physical dashboards.



Foundation:

Support from the RM Tulpule Charitable Trust enabled the installation of 27 solar-powered systems across gairan lands that previously lacked access to electricity. This initiative focused on setting up solar systems near water bodies to ensure a reliable and sustainable water supply for plantation activities.

Stories of change:

Drishti Tanna, with a background in game and strategic design, 1st connected with 14 Trees after meeting a volunteer at an algae walk. She later joined Workcation 2, became part of the Creative Team, supported Workcation 3, and has since contributed creatively to several projects and initiatives, including the design of this annual report.



NGO: Urvee Public Trust

We collaborated with the [URVEE Public Trust](#) to advance our vision of sustainable and climate-responsive staff housing at the Vetale site. URVEE, works with a vision to provide Indian villages with safe, eco-friendly and sustainable construction solutions.

The collaboration focused on building our staff quarters, exploring eco-friendly construction practices, use of locally available materials, and low-impact design approaches that reduce dependence on resource-intensive conventional building methods.



Through this collaboration, the Vetale site is emerging as a living demonstration of how thoughtful design and cross-organizational partnerships can contribute to resilient and future-ready habitats.



The URVEE team is also helping us redefine our new office space in The Vishwakalyan Building, Aundh Pune City. The team helped us create natural plasters and paints, redesign commonspaces like parkings, terrace and the design of sustainable furniture for the new office.



Microventures:



Our micro-enterprise focused on tree guard manufacturing has reached a significant milestone this year.

We successfully fulfilled an order from the Pune Municipal Corporation for 3,000 tree guards, which have been installed across key locations including Shivajinagar, Pashan Road, and areas near Savitribai Phule Pune University.

In addition, we received an order from one of our corporate partners for the installation of 500 tree guards in the Fergusson College area, supporting their plantation initiative.

This growth reflects both the increasing demand for our work and the expanding impact of our microventure in urban greening efforts.



Biodiversity at 14 Trees

We noticed significant improvements (~22%) in vegetation health (assessed using NDVI and NDMI indices) and biodiversity after initiating restoration activities at our model site in Vetale.

From FY 2025–26 onwards, we shifted our focus from documenting ecological change to understanding the drivers behind these positive trends. In other words, we began investigating why these improvements are occurring and which ecosystem processes are shaping these patterns.

To address this, we initiated a systematic assessment of key ecosystem functions at the site, beginning with carbon sequestration as an entry point for understanding broader ecological recovery dynamics.

We designed a field-based study to systematically collect carbon sequestration and biodiversity data across different land-use types.



Our project sites in Vetale, Khed taluk, Pune District

The primary objective was to compare carbon sequestration across plantations, grasslands, grazing lands, and areas experiencing persistent burning.

Our findings show that tree biomass stores the highest amount of carbon, followed by understory vegetation, while soil carbon remains comparatively low across all land-use categories.



In FY 2026–27, we will expand this research by integrating additional ecological and social parameters to study broader ecosystem functions and socio-ecological processes.

Our team



Get in touch



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14 Trees