

# DECEMBER 2024

# IN THE LOOP



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## Making Kuanria Dam Plastic-Free: A Community Initiative

### OVERVIEW :

- Making Kuanria Dam Plastic-Free.
- Transporting 1 Lakh Leaf Plates from Bisra.
- Gerapaju's Forest Protection Success Story.
- National Forest Consultation Draws Experts from Across India.

Vasundhara has initiated a Plastic-Free Campaign at Kuanria Dam to promote sustainable and eco-friendly alternatives while addressing plastic pollution. This campaign focuses on encouraging visitors, local vendors, and community members to adopt biodegradable and reusable products instead of single-use plastics.

As part of the initiative, Vasundhara facilitates awareness drives, interactive sessions, and eco-friendly product stalls to showcase sustainable alternatives such as sal leaf plates, bamboo-based products, and natural fiber bags. The campaign also emphasizes the role of responsible tourism and environmental conservation, aligning with the broader goal of safeguarding biodiversity and promoting green livelihoods. By engaging local stakeholders, Vasundhara aims to establish Kuanria Dam as an eco-conscious destination, ensuring long-term environmental benefits while supporting forest-dependent communities through the adoption of sustainable products.

## Transporting 1 Lakh Leaf Plates from Bisra



In a significant breakthrough for women-led forest enterprises, Vasundhara's Kuchinda field office facilitated the transportation of 100,000 sal leaf plates from Bisra. This achievement represents more than just logistics – it's a testament to the growing success of community-based enterprises. The initiative is creating sustainable income opportunities for women entrepreneurs while promoting eco-friendly alternatives in mainstream markets.

Vasundhara, through its Kuchinda field office, has facilitated the transportation of about 1 lakh sal leaf plates from Bisra, showcasing the strength of community-based enterprises. This initiative not only

promotes sustainable livelihoods but also empowers women entrepreneurs engaged in the production of eco-friendly alternatives to plastic. By expanding market access and ensuring efficient logistics, Vasundhara is enhancing the economic viability of these women-led enterprises. The initiative strengthens the sustainability of forest-based livelihoods, reinforcing the importance of eco-friendly products in mainstream markets. Through such efforts, Vasundhara continues to support economic democratization and environmental conservation, fostering self-reliance among forest-dependent communities.



# Gerapaju's Forest Protection Success Story



The village of Gerapaju, facing illegal logging and bamboo harvesting by outsiders, implemented Thengapali, a traditional forest protection method. Led by the women of the community, the villagers began daily patrols to safeguard their forest resources. Their collective efforts paid off when they caught a trespasser attempting to steal timber, sending a strong message to others.

The success of the initiative revitalized

the forest and strengthened the community's unity. The involvement of both men and women in decision-making fostered a sense of shared responsibility, and the practice of Thengapali became a symbol of resilience. Gerapaju's story serves as a model for other villages, showing that local governance, gender inclusivity, and collective action can effectively protect natural resources for future generations.

## National Forest Consultation Draws Experts from Across India

Vasundhara participated in a significant national-level consultation on forest issues in New Delhi this December. The event, organized by SRUTI, brought together 200 participants including civil society representatives, people's organizations, and FRA experts and activists. Executive Director Y. Giri Rao delivered a compelling presentation on democratizing forest governance under the Forest Rights Act, highlighting Vasundhara's continued commitment to forest rights advocacy.

