



Project 'Sustainable Phansad'

Why in News?

The first honey harvest took place near **the Phansad Wildlife Sanctuary** in Raigad district of Maharashtra, marking a significant success and source of encouragement for [conservation experts](#), **naturalists, and tribal communities.**

Key Points

- **Madhukosh:**
 - Under the **'Sustainable Phansad' project**, the **Madhukosh initiative** was introduced to support tribal livelihoods through honey production.
 - **Green Works Trust**, in partnership with **SBI Foundation**, launched this initiative.
 - By providing a stable income, the initiative reduces dependence on activities that may harm the sanctuary's ecosystem.
 - The presence of **bees enhances pollination, improving biodiversity** in Phansad Wildlife Sanctuary and surrounding areas.
- **Sustainable Honey Harvesting:**
 - The harvested honey represents a **fusion of traditional knowledge and modern [bee-keeping practices](#).**
 - This initiative demonstrates that **human activity and nature can coexist** harmoniously, fostering a **sustainable future for the region.**
- **Expanding Conservation and Livelihood Efforts:**
 - Project 'Sustainable Phansad' aims to **expand the bee-keeping initiative and further strengthen community participation in conservation.**
 - In addition to Madhukosh, **Green Works Trust** and **SBI Foundation** run other initiatives:
 - **EcoBEES** - Provides **nature education in schools** and manages dry waste collection in villages.
 - **Training the Tribes** - Offers supplementary **education for tribal children.**
 - **Conserving Jatayu** - Works on **reviving the [vulture](#) population** in Phansad Wildlife Sanctuary.
 - **Biodiversity Counts** - Focuses on **monitoring birds and herpetofauna (reptiles and amphibians)** in collaboration with the Maharashtra Forest Department.

Phansad Wildlife Sanctuary

- **Location and Significance:**
 - It is situated in the **Murud region of Raigad district, Maharashtra.**
 - It was established to **preserve the coastal woodland ecosystem** of [the Western Ghats](#).
 - It covers 17,250 acres of **forests, grasslands, and [wetlands](#).**
- **Historical Background:**
 - The area was once **part of the hunting reserves of the princely state of Murud-Janjira.**
 - Features open grassland pockets known as "mals", scattered throughout the sanctuary.

▪ **Flora:**

- The sanctuary hosts diverse plant species, including Ain, Kinjal, Teak, Hirda, Jamba, Mango, Ficus, and many more.

▪ **Fauna:**

- Major mammal species found in the sanctuary include [Leopard](#), Hyena, Sambar, and Mouse Deer.
- Rich in avian biodiversity, with notable bird species such as:
 - [Malabar Pied Hornbill](#), Black Eagle, Yellow-Footed Green Pigeon, Pompadour Green Pigeon, and Forest Wagtail, [White-rumped Vulture](#).

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