



We stand with our indigenous people.

Forest
**PROJECT GREEN
CHALLENGE**

With our Bhil community.

**SILKLY
WOVEN**

Day 13
Greenest Challenge
Priyanshi - Nandini - Rishika

Who are Bhil

- They cremate their dead followed series of rites as per their traditional customs and believe. Bhills are also fond of dance and music with traditional tune of Flute and Drum. In all family and community ceremonies they enjoy whole night by drinking and dancing.

- Bhils are listed as tribal people of the states of Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra and Rajasthan—all in the western Deccan regions and central India—as well as in Bengal and Tripura in far-eastern India, on the border with Bangladesh.





BHILS & FORESTS

“Since ancient times, our ancestors have been conserving and managing the forests based on our tribal customary law”, says Dhira Ram, a Bhil tribesman, also the village mukhiya and an environmental activist residing in Som village, close to Phulwari Ki Nal wildlife sanctuary, which is 90 km southwest of Udaipur city under Udaipur district. He recalls, “In 2004, I joined the Van Utthan Sansthan, a federation of forest protection committees in Udaipur district. This is where I began as an activist. I used to be a Gavri artist, and our group would use folk songs to spread awareness on environment. Villagers in throngs would gather to see our performance in every village we enter, and I travelled with my companions in all the forest villages and the surrounding areas in Jhadol and Phalasiya tehsil.” Dhira Ram is a passionate writer and a singer, and he has been composing most of the songs his troupe sings even today.

BHIL TRIBES REVIVE OLD TRADITION TO CONSERVE FOREST AND WATER

- Bhil tribes people said the water level and forest cover in the two districts are decreasing and if they do not conserve the natural resources then the next generation will suffer.
- Until now, tribes people have planted more than 11,000 trees in 110 villages, repaired more than 250 hand pumps and dug more than three dozen big ponds in the region, under the drive.
- More than 10,000 Bhil tribes people from more than 300 villages will gather at Hathipawa hill, about 1.5 km from district headquarters on March 14 and 15 to take a pledge for the cause. Tribes people will dig more than 100 contour trenches around the hill to conserve water.
- Chauhan said the drive has been going on in more than 800 villages in the two districts and more than 20,000 Bhils have planted trees to conserve environment and water.



HALMA :- BHIL'S ECOLOGICAL KNOWLEDGE

- Bhil tribes people in Madhya Pradesh's Jhabua and Alirajpur districts have revived their age-old tradition "halma" to conserve environment.
- Halma is an ancient tradition of the Bhils where tribes people gather at a place to discuss problems face by the community.
- Halma has united tribes people to conserve environment and water said Rajesh Bhavsar, an official of Madhya Pradesh tribal welfare department posted in Jhabua.
- Surti Bai Ninama , a "halma" worker from Bisloi village in Jhabua district, said the aim of the drive was to make the village green.
- "We were earlier suffering from lack of water but now due to the drive we have taken up many initiatives to increase the water level in the village," said Surti Bai, who tours the district to spread the message of halma.





WHAT BHILS TEACH US

I got to learn today that the Bhils the elder generation who paved our way towards a better and more sustainable future are the builders of this strong foundation of our country India. And they teaches us that..

“ No matter how far and high you go never forget the “ Soil ”
beneath your feet.”





THE SAVANNAH FOUNDATION



Thank You

BHILS



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