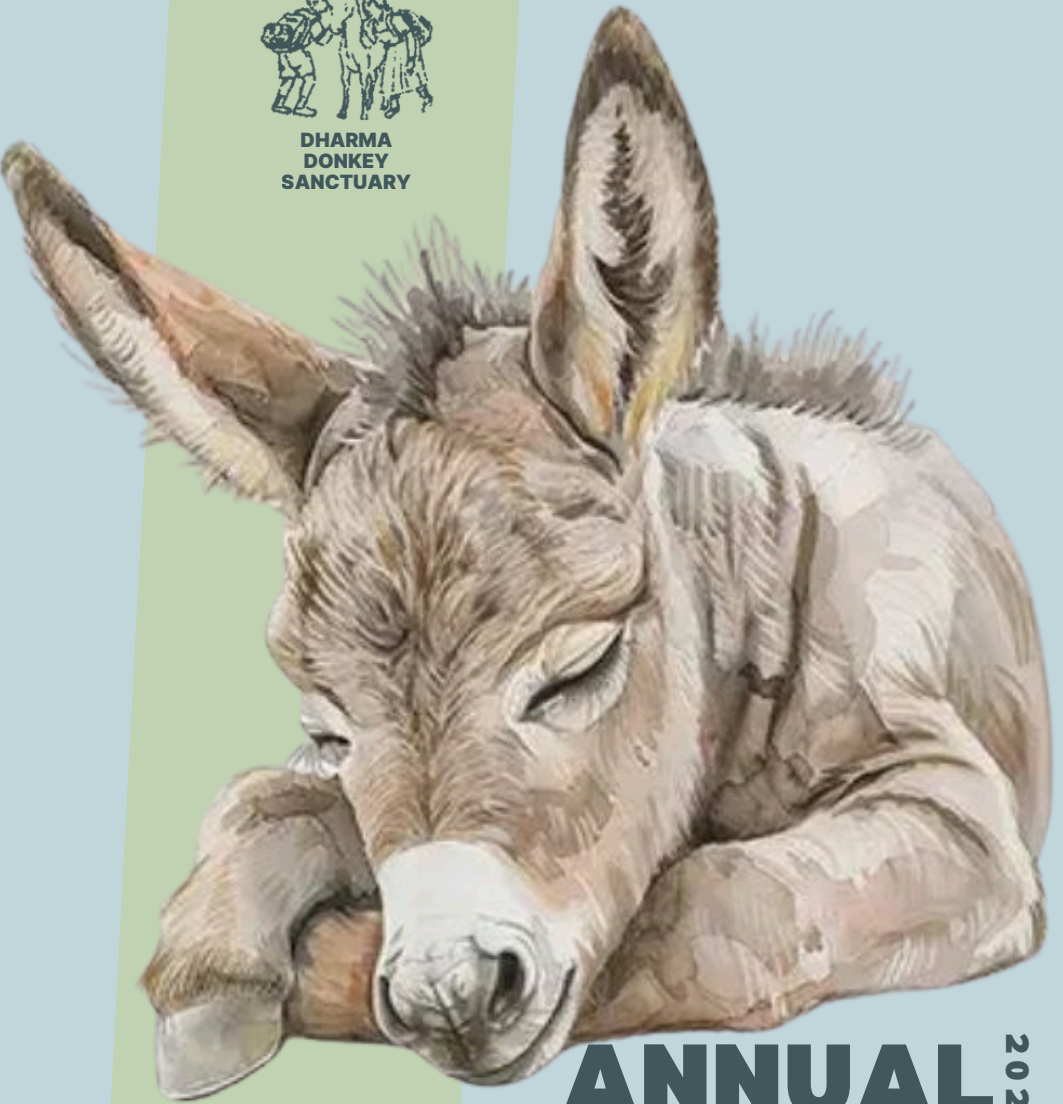




**DHARMA  
DONKEY  
SANCTUARY**



# **ANNUAL REPORT**

**2024-25**

**Sagroli Tq. Biloli, Dist. Nanded 431731, Maharashtra**  
**Reg. No. E-527 (Nanded) | AWBI Code No. MHO91/2002**

## PREFACE

Donkeys play a vital role in agricultural goods transportation in rural areas. The Communities like potters, washermen and donkeys for their livelihood. Despite their service, they are the least cared for equines. The vision of the project is “**Healthy Working Equine.**” We recognized this injustice early and began welfare activities across Nanded District.

The Dharma Donkey Sanctuary was established in the year 2000, under the leadership of Smt. Maneka Gandhi, who was then the Cabinet Minister and animal lover, with the support of Ratilal Shah (USA), Brooke Hospital for Animals, Blue Cross of Hyderabad, Sanskriti Samvardhan Mandal Sagroli, and many other animal lovers.



Trustee  
**Dr. Jayant Jakate**

## GOVERNING BODY



Chairperson | Trustee  
**Pramod Keshavrao Deshmukh**  
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## OUR PARTNERS



INDIA  
ANIMAL  
FUND



पशुसंवर्धन विभाग

**Department of Animal Husbandry**

Government of Maharashtra

## WORD FROM CHAIRPERSON



### Pramod Keshavrao Deshmukh

It is a matter of pride that Dharma Donkey Sanctuary completes 25 years of service, celebrating its Silver Jubilee. Since its inception in the year 2000 at Sagroli, inaugurated by Mrs. Maneka Gandhi. The sanctuary has worked tirelessly for the welfare of working donkeys in Maharashtra and adjoining states. Through awareness programmes, medical camps, and outreach, we have reduced suffering and encouraged owners to provide better care and shelter. Training programmes for veterinarians now address donkey-specific health issues. I sincerely thank all supporters and seek continued cooperation in strengthening the welfare of these hardworking yet often overlooked animals.

## WORD FROM TRUSTEE

Abhijeet Mahajan.

We are delighted to share that Dharma Donkey Sanctuary has successfully completed 25 years of dedicated service in animal welfare, marking our Silver Jubilee Year. The Board of Trustees, volunteers, and staff are celebrating this milestone with renewed energy and commitment. Over the past year, our efforts were focused in Nanded and Beed districts of Marathwada, reaching more than 1,500 donkeys at brick kilns in Ambejogai and Parli, and around 1,000 donkeys engaged in sand and agricultural transport in Sagroli. Our work included veterinary care, awareness, and enforcement of animal protection laws, with generous support from the Department of Animal Husbandry, District Administration, IAF, and FIAPO. We sincerely seek your continued encouragement and partnership in advancing equine welfare.





## AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

### Animal Care Program: Aim and Objectives

#### Aim

Our Animal Care Program is dedicated to improving the welfare of working donkeys and other community animals by offering comprehensive, free-of-cost health services that address both preventive and emergency needs. These services ensure that animals, often seen as silent partners in rural livelihoods, receive the care and attention they deserve for a healthier and more dignified life.

Beyond treatment, the program strives to build awareness and compassion within the community, recognizing that lasting change in animal welfare begins with human responsibility. We work closely with families, farmers, and livestock owners to encourage better practices in nutrition, shelter, and humane handling of animals.

A special emphasis is placed on educating and involving children, nurturing in them a natural sense of empathy and respect for animals. Through school sessions, interactive workshops, and hands-on experiences, we aim to inspire a new generation of animal advocates who will carry forward the values of kindness, responsibility, and ethical care. Ultimately, our goal is to create a community where both humans and animals can thrive in harmony, ensuring that working donkeys and other community animals are not just viewed as sources of labor, but as living beings deserving of care, dignity, and compassion.



## Our Core Objectives:

- **Healing the Herd:** Providing critical medical care and sanctuary to injured, sick, and elderly donkeys.
- **Preventing Disease:** Protecting thousands of donkeys through vital vaccination and deworming camps.
- **Empowering Local Heroes:** Training and equipping community health providers for sustainable, on-the-ground care.
- **Bridging the Gap to Care:** Connecting remote communities with essential government veterinary services.
- **Fostering Community Well-being:** Expanding our impact through humane dog sterilization programs.

## OUR COMMITMENT: THE FIVE FREEDOMS

This is our pledge:

- **Nourishment:** We ensure every donkey has access to fresh water and the food needed to thrive.
- **Comfort:** We provide safe shelter and a comfortable environment for them to rest and recover.
- **Health:** We deliver expert veterinary care to prevent suffering and treat all pain, injury, and disease.
- **Behavior:** We create spaces where donkeys can live and socialize naturally as part of a herd.
- **Peace:** We guarantee a life of kindness, ensuring every donkey is free from fear and distress.

## OUR CORE ACTIVITIES

- **Veterinary Services:** Delivering essential and emergency medical treatment for equines, addressing everything from injuries and disease to preventative care.





- **Owner Education:** Empowering equine owners with the knowledge and best practices necessary to ensure the long-term health and welfare of their animals.
- **Community Capacity Building:** Strengthening the skills of local service providers—including community health workers and government veterinarians—through targeted training and development.
- **Advocacy and Policy:** Engaging with policy makers to champion the cause of equine welfare and drive meaningful, systemic change.

## MEASURING OUR SUCCESS

Our dedicated efforts have led to a significant and positive impact in the communities we serve. The following key outcomes highlight the progress we have made this year:

- **Empowered Owners:** Donkey owners now have direct access to expert veterinary guidance, leading to more informed and proactive animal care.
- **Improved Animal Husbandry:** We have fostered a deeper understanding of animal welfare, enabling owners to better recognize and address the needs of their donkeys.
- **A Trusted Lifeline:** Our organization has been firmly established as the go-to platform for reliable and compassionate veterinary care, building trust within the community.



In a **Joint initiative** by the **Animal Husbandry Department** and **Dharma Donkey Sanctuary** (Sagrol, Tal. Biloli), a **rabies vaccination campaign** for **pet and stray dogs** has been conducted in Sagrol





## WELFARE ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED DURING THE YEAR

### Laying the Groundwork for Change

This year was all about building our foundation, thanks to a powerful partnership between FIAPO and Dharma Donkey Sanctuary (DDS).



225 sites



2,686  
donkeys  
assessed



### Key Findings

Emaciation (BSC < 3): 888 donkeys (33%)  
Depression & apathy: 945 donkeys (35%)  
Wounds & eye discharge: 1,839 cases (68%)

### Site Conditions

**Dirty water troughs:** ~70% of sites  
**No shelters available:** ~90% of sites  
**Lack of vet access (reported):** 70% of owners



### Capacity Building & Legal Training

#### Training & Advocacy Highlights

At DDS, FIAPO led a lively “Train the Trainers” workshop with Ms. Sirjana Nijjar—covering donkey care, Mellor’s Five Domains, animal laws, and the vital role of district officials. The session sparked fresh advocacy ideas, from tackling rabies risks to pushing for anti-tetanus shots and support for abandoned donkeys.



On the advocacy front, DDS met with DAHOs in Nanded & Beed, along with senior livestock officials. The result? Stronger coordination, rabies awareness campaigns on the horizon, and a call to bring donkey vaccinations into state programs.

Meanwhile, 10 enthusiastic volunteers joined the DDS mission (Jul-Sep), trained on animal laws and cruelty prevention—adding more hands and hearts to the cause of donkey protection.

## PROJECT SUMMARY

FIAPO trained DDS staff in donkey welfare, nutrition, clinical care, and data collection, also providing IEC materials and first-aid kits. Between May-June 2024, DDS assessed 2,686 donkeys across 225 sites—finding widespread undernutrition, depression, wounds, poor water and shelter conditions, and limited veterinary access reported by most owners.



## SPOTLIGHT ON SURRA

**Event:** Donkey Owners Learn About Surra (DDS & FIAPO, Nov 2024)

**Donkeys treated:** 155 (18 first-time, rest follow-ups)

**Common health issues:**

- Lameness – 53 cases
- Respiratory problems – 27 cases
- Colic – 19 cases
- Vaccinations: 148 donkeys against tetanus
- Basic care provided:
- Feed & water – Ambejogai (27), Parli (61), Sagroli (65)
- Water trough cleaning – Ambejogai (18), Parli (61), Sagroli (65)
- Shelter arranged in Parli for recovering donkeys



## DONKEY WELFARE AT MALEGAON YATRA ( DECEMBER 2024)

**Event:** DDS with FIAPO support  
(Dec 2024)

- **Donkeys treated:** 134 across 3 clusters
- **Vaccinations:** 1140 donkeys received tetanus shots
- **Key issues treated:** Colic (38), Lameness (35), Wounds (11)
- **Basic care:** Feed, water & shelter provided; 90 donkeys benefited from trough cleaning
- **Shelter:** 30 donkeys cared for in Parli & Sagroli
- **New troughs:** Helped 40 donkeys at Satefal and 35 at Pimpal Dahiguda

**Mass Deworming Drive -**  
Malegaon Yatra (Dec 28-30)

- 1,325 donkeys examined & treated from Nanded, Latur & Bidar
- Common issues: exhaustion & transport injuries
- Medicines supplied by Animal Husbandry Dept.

**FIAPO's Role:** Helped plan camps as training hubs for vets and to engage local authorities for long-term donkey care.

## DONKEY WELFARE HIGHLIGHTS (JANUARY 2025)

In January, under the Sparsham project, the team treated 56 donkeys across **three clusters**, of which **52 were new cases** and four follow-ups. Common issues included lameness (16 cases) and respiratory problems (14 cases). Additionally, **52 donkeys** were **vaccinated** against tetanus, while **feed and water** were provided at all sites. Owners were encouraged to maintain clean water troughs at 33 brick kilns in Parli and 19 villages in Sagroli, ensuring safe drinking water. In Sagroli, 19 donkeys also received shelter support. Awareness sessions further guided owners on preventing heat stress in animals. Adding a unique highlight, the Sparsham team, in collaboration with **Dharma Donkey Sanctuary**, organised a “**Healthy Donkey Contest**” during Krushived 2025 at **SSM's Krishi Vigyan Kendra** in **Sagroli**. Among **42** participants, **Balaji Mutteppwar's** donkey won the **top prize** of **₹5,000**, while Datta Ibitwar and Sanjay Ibitwar secured second and third place, reinforcing the value of donkey welfare.

## DONKEY WELFARE & EDUCATION

### By DDS with FIAPO Support Treatment & Training

- **90** donkeys treated (respiratory illness – **19**, lameness – **13**, colic – **10**)
- **28** donkeys vaccinated against tetanus
- Training on heat stress, colic prevention & saddle care

### Workshops:

- Colic (Feb 10, Tokewadi, 22 owners),
- Saddle care (Feb 11, 49 participants incl. 1 govt. paravet)
- New water trough at Tokewadi (Parli) benefiting 43 donkeys

### Advocacy on Abandoned Donkeys

- **DDS & FIAPO** raised stray donkey concerns in Parli with AHD officials
- **Risks:** dog bites, plastic ingestion, traffic accidents
- **Dr. Haribhau Pandey** agreed to explore policies & resources
- **Next step:** meetings with SPCA & AHD for long-term solutions.

## BUILDING CAPACITY & ADVOCACY

### Workshops & Welfare Activities

- **25 Mar:** Heat stress workshop at Pimpra Dahiguda (Ambejogai) for 36 owners
- **26 Mar:** Temporary shed built at Satephal brick-kiln, helping 26 donkeys
- **28 Mar:** Water trough donated at Satephal
- **9 Mar:** Women's Day celebrated with 24 women from donkey-owning families honoured for their brick-making & loading work

### DDS Capacity Building

- **18 Mar:** FIAPO advocacy training for 21 DDS staff on community engagement & legal awareness
- **20 Mar:** Follow-up Animal Laws training with 24 attendees (DDS, AHD, Police & Forest Dept.)

### District-Level Advocacy

- **27 Mar:** DDS & FIAPO met Beed District Magistrate to push AWBI guideline implementation
- **Issues raised:** overloading, long hours, heat stress risks
- DM assured action with support from AHD & veterinary officers

## PROJECT SPARSHAM

### Project Sparsham

Launched in June 2024 by Dharma Donkey Sanctuary (DDS) with FIAPO, Sparsham focuses on improving the health of donkeys working in brick kilns across Parali, Ambajogai, and sand transport in Sagroli. With over 800 donkeys serving more than 120 kilns, the project provides timely veterinary care, health check-ups, and owner education. In its early phase, over 400 donkeys were examined and treated for common health issues, earning appreciation from local owners. Led by Dr. Akshay Musale and his team, Sparsham is a long-term commitment to create a healthier, more humane working environment for these hardworking animals, ensuring they are valued not just as laborers but as lives worth caring for. The program also raises awareness on preventive care like vaccination, wound management, and heat stress. It promotes owner responsibility towards animal welfare. Ultimately, Sparsham aims to build a sustainable model of compassion that benefits both donkeys and the communities that depend on them.



## OUR BENEFICIARIES

### “Sparsham Restores Sight” - A Story of Hope

Through the Sparsham project, Dharma Donkey Sanctuary and FIAPO have been bringing care to donkeys who work in brick kilns and sand transport. One such case is of **Rukhman Gawli** from Ambajogai. His donkey had been suffering for weeks its eyes filled with sticky discharge, vision fading each day. With no means for treatment, both the animal and owner felt helpless.

When the Sparsham team examined the donkey, veterinary assistant Prashant Arkade diagnosed lacrimal disease and began treatment. After three visits, the donkey's eyes cleared, and it regained full sight. The relief and joy on Rukhman's face spoke volumes.

Sparsham is already caring for over 1,300 donkeys across Parli, Ambajogai, and Sagroli. But many more still wait for help.

Your support can ensure that donkeys like Rukhman's are not left to suffer in silence.





### OUR BENEFICIARIES



From dawn till night, Asha Pawar of Ambajogai (Beed) shoulders the responsibility of caring for her seven-member family along with nine donkeys that sustain their livelihood. At the brick kiln in Satephal, she and her donkeys transport nearly 15,000 bricks every day, before she returns home to cook, clean, and tend to her animals. For Asha, donkeys are more than work companions—they are divine beings, deserving love and care. As a beneficiary of the Dharma Donkey Sanctuary, supported by FIAPO, her donkeys now receive regular medical treatment and nutritional support. This care has made her animals healthier, easing the family's hardship and ensuring a more secure livelihood.

Her day still begins at 4 a.m. with endless chores, yet she faces them without complaint. She believes women hold families together, often carrying more than their share of burdens. Her compassion for animals mirrors her inner strength, and her perseverance inspires her children and her community.

Asha's journey as a beneficiary of Dharma Donkey Sanctuary reflects the resilience of countless women whose dedication and compassion form the backbone of families and rural communities.



## OUR BENEFICIARIES

Ram Ibitdar of Sagroli, Nanded, depends on his 14 donkeys to support his family of four. Recently, he faced a distressing incident when one donkey bit another's leg, leaving a deep wound with heavy bleeding. Fearing for the animal's survival, Ram immediately reached out to Bhaskar Buchchalwar, a veterinary assistant from the Dharma Donkey Sanctuary's Sparsham project. Thanks to timely treatment and care, the injured donkey fully recovered within 15 days and was able to return to work.

Ram shared that in earlier times, such injuries often ended in tragedy due to the lack of veterinary support. Now, as a beneficiary of the Sparsham initiative, his donkeys receive regular checkups, treatment, preventive care, disinfection, and vaccinations. This reliable support has given him peace of mind and greater confidence in securing his animals' health.

For Ram's family, their donkeys are their sole source of livelihood. By protecting his animals, the Sparsham project has also strengthened his family's financial stability and future.



## OUR BENEFICIARIES



Pradeep Bawane from Tokwadi (Parli, Beed) remembers a time when his family owned 20 donkeys, working tirelessly in brick kilns under scorching heat of 40-42°C. Without timely veterinary care, many of his animals frequently fell ill, and some even died. These repeated losses forced his family to sell all their donkeys and shift to transporting bricks with an auto rickshaw, leaving behind the livelihood they had depended on for generations.

As a beneficiary of the Dharma Donkey Sanctuary's Sparsham project, Pradeep has witnessed the change that access to healthcare can bring. With regular checkups, vaccinations, and timely treatment now available, families like his no longer live in constant fear of losing their animals to preventable illnesses.

For Pradeep, Sparsham represents not just care for donkeys, but also protection of livelihoods and dignity for families who depend on them.

## GUIDANCE CAMP

Under the Sparsham project, jointly implemented by Dharma Donkey Sanctuary and FIAPO, a special guidance camp on the treatment and care of the disease “Sara” was organized on 28 November 2024 at Adampur, Biloli (Alandi Taluka). The camp aimed to create awareness among donkey owners about early detection, prevention, and proper treatment of the disease, which poses a major threat to working animals.

The session was led by Dr. Sanjay Alamwar (Veterinary Medical Hospital, Category-2, Adampur) with the gracious presence of chief guest Abhijit Mahajan. Notable experts including Dr. Akshay Musale (Ambejogai), Bhaskar Buchchalwar (Sagrol), Sagar Waghmare (Parli), and Prashant Arkade (Ambejogai) actively contributed by sharing practical insights, case experiences, and demonstrating treatment methods.

A total of 43 donkey owners participated in the camp. They received valuable knowledge on disease management, preventive healthcare, and nutrition practices to safeguard the well-being of their animals. As part of the welfare drive, jaggery and mineral mixtures were distributed to 15 owners, ensuring improved nutrition and stamina for their donkeys.

The camp not only enhanced awareness but also built confidence among owners that timely veterinary support is accessible. This initiative reflects Sparsham’s ongoing commitment to strengthening donkey health, promoting compassionate care, and supporting the livelihoods of families who depend on these hardworking animals.





## HEALTH CAMP

### Donkey Health Camp at Malegaon

On the occasion of the Malegaon Yatra—an event that attracts a large number of livestock from across South India, including donkeys from districts such as Nanded, Osmanabad, Buldhana, Bidar, Latur, Akola, and Beed—the Dharma Donkey Sanctuary (DDS), with the support of the Federation of Indian Animal Protection Organisations (FIAPO), organized a Free Donkey Health Camp in Malegaon.

On the very first day, approximately 1,000 donkeys were examined and provided with essential healthcare services. The dedicated veterinary team focused on treating cases of wounds and colic, ensuring immediate relief and improved well-being for the animals.

The camp was further strengthened by the visit of Dr. Ghule, District Animal Husbandry Officer (DAHO), Nanded, along with his team. Their interaction with donkey owners and DDS staff added value through guidance, encouragement, and technical support. The District Animal Husbandry Department also extended critical assistance by providing medicine supplements, which contributed significantly to the camp's success.

This initiative reflects the continued commitment of DDS and FIAPO to improving the health and welfare of working donkeys, while also supporting their owners with accessible veterinary care during this important livestock gathering.



## HEALTH CAMP (GALLERY)



The Malegaon Yatra, renowned across South India, draws a large number of livestock, including donkeys, brought in from various districts such as Nanded, Osmanabad, Buldhana, Bidar, Latur, Akola, and Beed. This year, the Dharma Donkey Sanctuary (DDS) stepped up to ensure the well-being of these often-overlooked animals with support of FIAPO - Federation of Indian Animal Protection Organisations.

The Zilla Parishad's Animal Husbandry Department supported the initiative by providing medicines. Officials Dr. Praveen Ghule and Dr. Sunil Giri visited the camp, praised the effort, and interacted with livestock owners. A total of 1325 donkeys owned by 107 people were treated for deworming, eye infections, injuries, and more.



DDS conducted a special donkey health camp in Sagroli, offering deworming, vaccinations, and essential treatments. Donkey owners also received guidance on nutrition, hygiene, and management, ensuring healthier animals and improved welfare for these hardworking companions.

In June 2024, Dharma Donkey Sanctuary held a veterinary camp in Arali, providing vaccines and treatments for sick donkeys. The initiative ensured better health, reduced suffering, and supported families who rely on these hardworking animals for their livelihoods.





## OUR CAMPAIGNS

### Support Life-Saving Medicines for Animals

🐾 At Dharma Donkey Sanctuary, medicines mean hope, healing, and healthier lives for animals in need. From treating wounds and infections to preventing deadly diseases, **your support ensures that donkeys and other animals receive timely care.**

🍷 ₹500 deworms a donkey

💉 ₹1,000 vaccinates against deadly diseases

🕒 ₹2,500 supports months of treatment

🌿 ₹5,000 provides year-round care

Every contribution saves lives. Be the lifeline they need—donate today and make a lasting difference

### Bank Details:

**Account Name:** Dharma Donkey Sanctuary

**A/C No.:** 60252541127

**Bank:** Bank of Maharashtra, Sagroli

**IFSC:** MAHB0001070

**Branch Code:** 1070.

## LEGAL STATUS

S.no	Particulars	I'D Number	Validity
1	PAN	AACTD8575F	-
2	Charity Commisioner	E-527( Nanded)	-
3	CSR	CSR00009086	-
4	AWBI Number	MH091/2002	Jan 23, 2029
5	Form 10AC of IT	AACTD8575FE2000 2	2026-27
6	80G of IT	AACTD8575FF20216	2026-27



## **MEDIA COVERAGE**

### **Alur's Donkeys Steal the Show, Even Sudur Donkeys Shine**

Animal Exhibition and Competitions Receive Enthusiastic Response at Agricultural Technology Festival in Sagroli  
Sagroli, Jan 31 (Reporter):

An animal exhibition and competitions were organized on Friday (Jan 31) during the Agricultural Technology Festival held at Sagroli in Biloli taluka. The event witnessed active participation from farmers, who brought their cattle, buffaloes, sheep, goats, and donkeys, making the event lively and diverse.

In the animal competition, donkeys from Alur and Sudur villages became the center of attraction. Among them, the donkeys of farmer Bapu Supnekar from Asar village stood out and earned the admiration of judges and spectators. For the third consecutive year, Supnekar's donkeys received recognition and maintained their winning streak.

The competition featured categories for cows, buffaloes, bulls, oxen, goats, sheep, and donkeys. Farmers from nearby villages enthusiastically participated, showcasing their livestock.

### **Awareness Among Animal Owners**

Dharma Donkey Sanctuary has been treating donkeys and raising awareness among their owners for the past 20 years. The organization emphasizes proper nutrition, housing, and overall care for donkeys, inspiring farmers to take better care of their animals.

Certificates were distributed to the winners, and villagers cheered proudly for their donkeys. The prizes were awarded by Dharma Donkey Sanctuary's Director Rohit Deshpande, who highlighted the importance of donkeys in rural livelihoods.

Officials present included Assistant Commissioner of Animal Husbandry Dr. Rajkumar Pathade and District Animal Husbandry Officer Dr. Nandu Juge, who also visited the stalls and appreciated the event.

This unique exhibition not only entertained the audience but also created awareness about animal care, particularly for donkeys working in agriculture and transport in rural areas.

## OUR TEAM



Abhijeet Mahajan



Dr. Akshay  
Musale



Prashant Arkade  
Para- Vet



Bhaskar  
Buchalwar  
Para-Vet



Sagar Waghmare  
Para-Vet

## VOLUNTEERS



Madhav Tate



Dr. Nihal Ahmed  
Mulla



Sachin Mirdode  
Accountant



Sachin Yermalkar



Karimalmanohar  
Patil



Ananya Kashyap



**Donkeys  
Rescued**

**06**



**DHARMA  
DONKEY  
SANCTUARY**



**1610**

**Total No.  
of  
Donkeys**

**4360**



**Donkeys  
vaccinated**



**28**

**Donkey  
Shelters**

