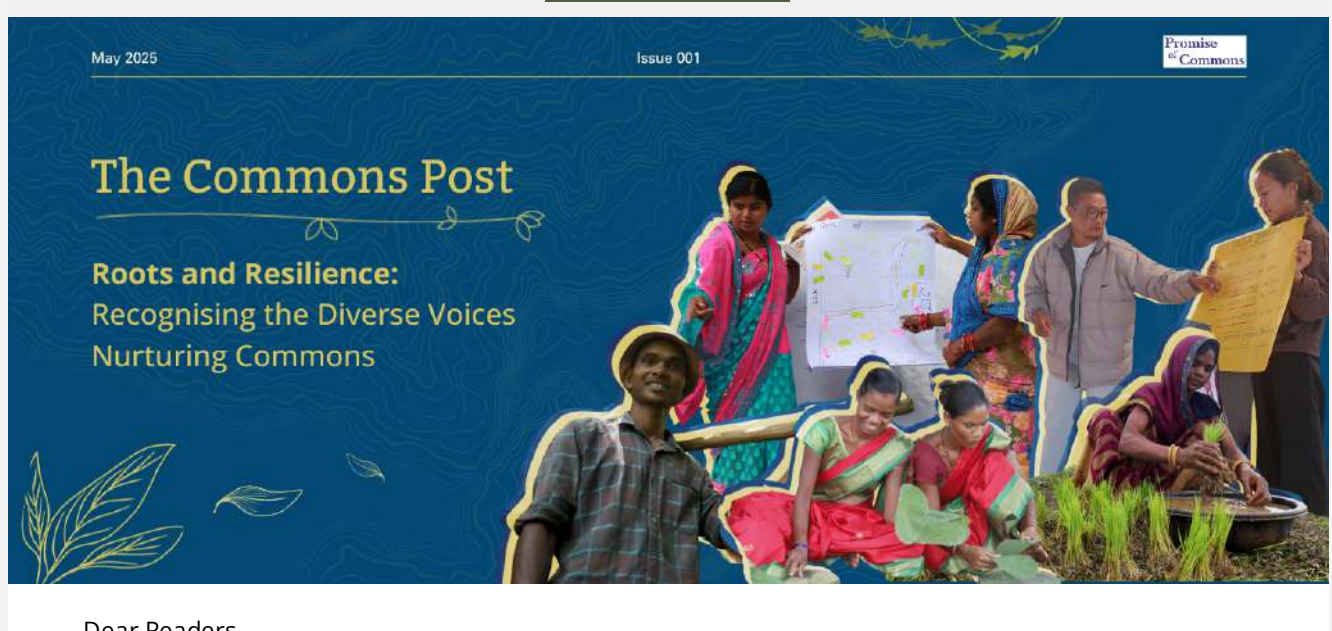


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Dear Readers,

Commons—our shared lands, waters, forests, and knowledge systems—have long sustained communities, providing sources of food, fuel, livelihoods, and cultural identities. **The Promise of Commons initiative** is a call to reimagine these shared resource systems — not just as ecological assets, but as foundations of communities' resilience, justice, and collective thriving. It urges a shift toward community-led stewardship rooted in care, equity, and sustainability.

In this spirit, over 500 changemakers, community leaders, practitioners, policymakers, and thinkers came together in August last year at the Dr. Ambedkar International Centre in Delhi. The gathering celebrated grassroots leadership, shared stories of local action, discussed upcoming challenges, and built momentum for a future where community-led Commons governance is supported by diverse stakeholders. Then, more than 100 community leaders from 17 Indian states, along with speakers from Spain, Bangladesh, Kyrgyzstan and Malaysia, came together last December to share their experiences of Commons stewardship with each other in their own languages, spotlighting the power of collective action in implementing local solutions to complex problems.

This made us realise that the communities' efforts to steward Commons across the country are diverse, multi-faceted, and equally critical, and we need our collective efforts to highlight them. This newsletter is a step towards creating a shared space for stories, updates, events, resources, and conversations - for anything you think needs to be shared in the ecosystem. We invite you to go through this issue with that spirit, and we hope you will [send in your contributions](#) to the next edition.

Warm regards,

## At a Glance

### Sashakta Gram Sashakta Samaaj Campaign



The *Sashakta Gram, Sashakta Samaaj* campaign is a vibrant community-driven initiative that empowers villagers to reclaim their rights over shared resources, strengthen self-governance, and pave the way for a sustainable future in Madhya Pradesh. With communities at the forefront, the initiative thrives on inclusion, active participation, and a strong sense of collective ownership.

### National Women's Panchayati Raj Convention 2025



Women's agency on decision-making for managing shared natural resources shapes the well-being of communities and ecosystems at large. Recently, Area Networking and Development Initiatives (ANANDI) organized the vibrant National Women's Panchayati Raj Convention 2025, in Dahod, Gujarat, which united women sarpanches, panchayat members, and grassroots leaders to reflect on their shared concerns, celebrate their power, and re-imagine the future of local governance. Read more on the inspiring initiatives led by ANANDI [here](#).

### Knowledge Partners Meet For Collaborative Evidence Building



A workshop to strengthen collaborative efforts in building evidence around the various aspects of community-led stewardship of Commons was held in Bengaluru, India. Bringing together academicians and researchers from natural resource management, livelihoods, climate action, and socio-ecological research, the discussions focused on emerging research questions, key insights, and future directions on various aspects of the Commons.

### Collaboration, Partnership and Solidarity on Land Rights at Asia Land Forum



The Asia Land Forum 2025, hosted in Jakarta, Indonesia, was a unique space for grassroots leaders from 85 countries—farmers, fisherfolk, indigenous peoples, women, and youth. Landstack, Common Ground, FES, along with other organisations from India were present at the forum. Also the Forum reinforced the collective resolve of the participants to push for equitable land rights, participatory governance, and community-led solutions. Kudos to the organisers for bringing such powerful voices together on the platform! Read more [here](#).

### Recognition for Seba Jagat's Efforts to Safeguard the Commons



This Republic Day, the 66th Battalion of the CRPF honoured Ms. Rosnara Mohanty from Seba Jagat, Odisha, for her efforts in empowering women in Kalshandi district. In a region where land ownership is scarce, Rosnara empowers women by unlocking the potential of forest Commons, transforming them into sustainable livelihoods. Her impact goes beyond income generation, extending to education and healthcare support for the community.

### National Pastoral Youth Conclave at Living Lightly 2025



Amid the immersive Living Lightly 2025 exhibition in Bengaluru, FES, the Rainfed Livestock Network, Sahjeevan, and RRAN came together to host a National Pastoral Youth Conclave—uniting young pastoralists to share stories, wisdom, and sustainable solutions. Read more [here](#).

## Commons in News

### National Consultation on Adivasis for VNR 2025 Successfully Concludes in Ranchi

February 16, 2023 | Ranchi | National & International



This article by Roli Srivastava talks about a unique water conservation project based on sharing resources in a drought-prone region of eastern India that has revived farms and wells, easing women's workload and empowering them.

Organised by PHIA (Partnering Hope Into Action Foundation) and FES, in collaboration with the United Nations Tribal Task Team, the VNR is a country-led initiative that evaluates national progress in implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The consultation saw participation from 100+ stakeholders, including civil society organisations, academic and research institutions, Adivasi leaders, scholars, and subject matter experts.

Watershed move: When a village shares a vital resource

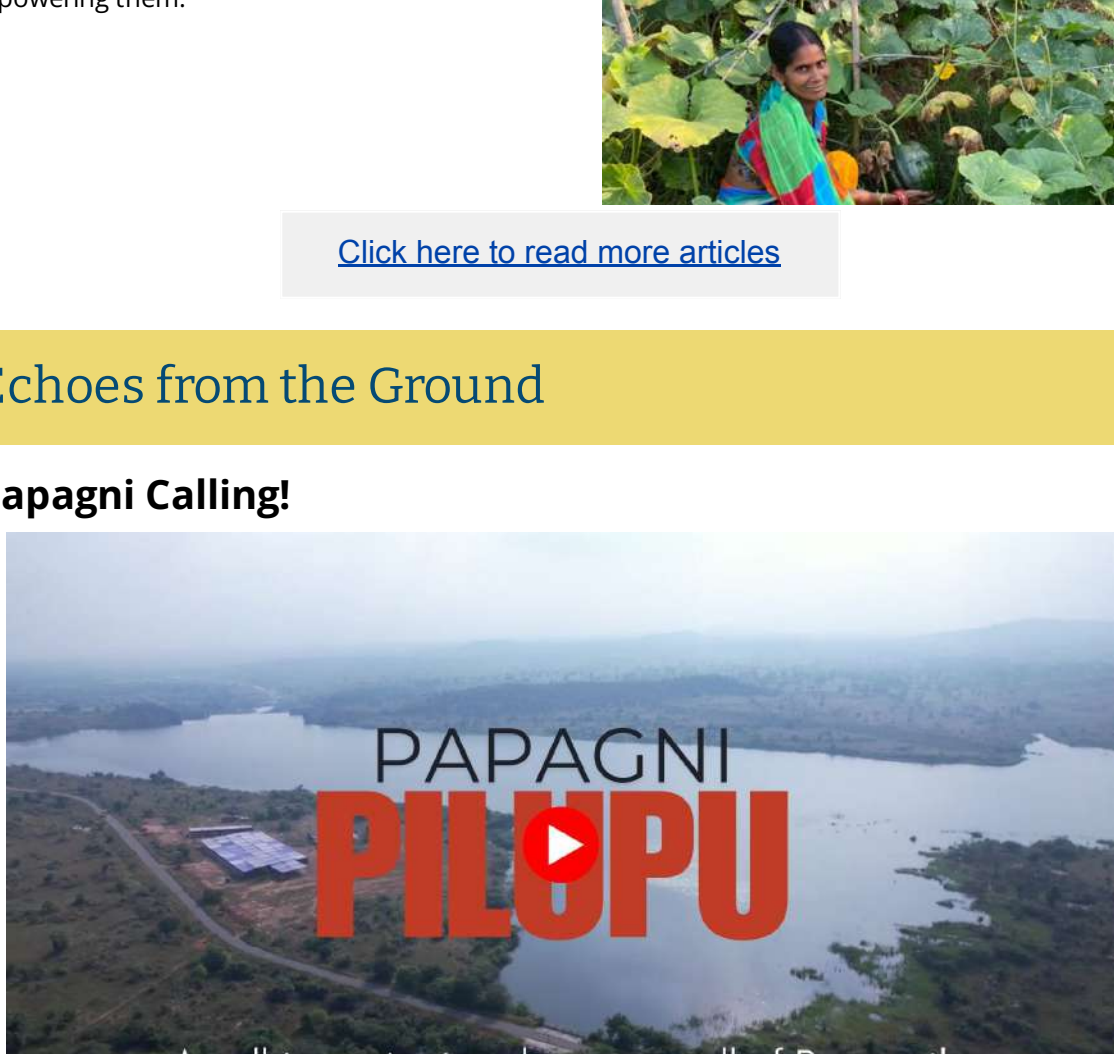
An unique water conservation project based on sharing resources in a drought-prone region of eastern India has revived farms and wells, easing women's workload and empowering them.

Roli Srivastava

Click here to read more articles

## Echoes from the Ground

### Papagni Calling!



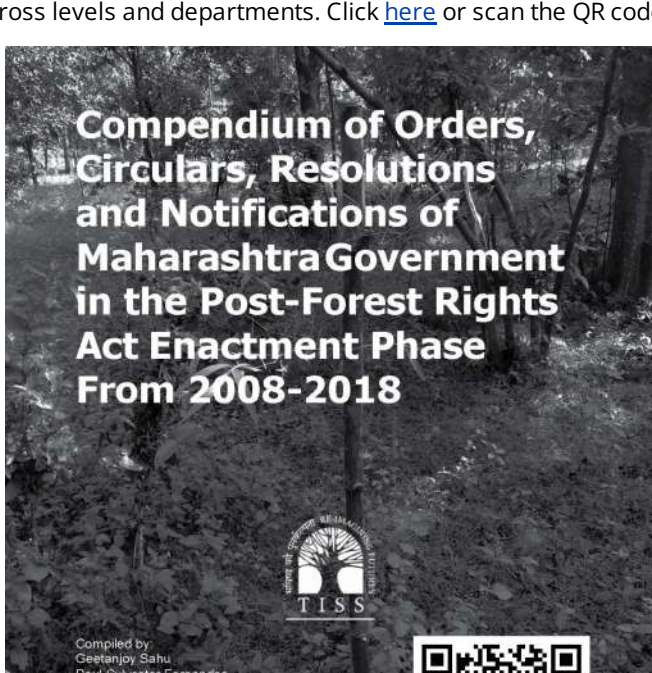
Held along the Papagni River banks, 'Papagni Pilupu' celebrates community champions and the deep social and cultural bonds communities share with their landscapes. The event featured interactive stalls, photo booths with "I am.. For Papagni" slogans, folk performances promoting conservation, and community leaders sharing experiences on Commons stewardship.

A special thanks to Madappa PS for beautifully compiling this video, which captures the spirit, energy, and diverse moments of this gathering. Watch the full video [here](#).

## Commons Resources

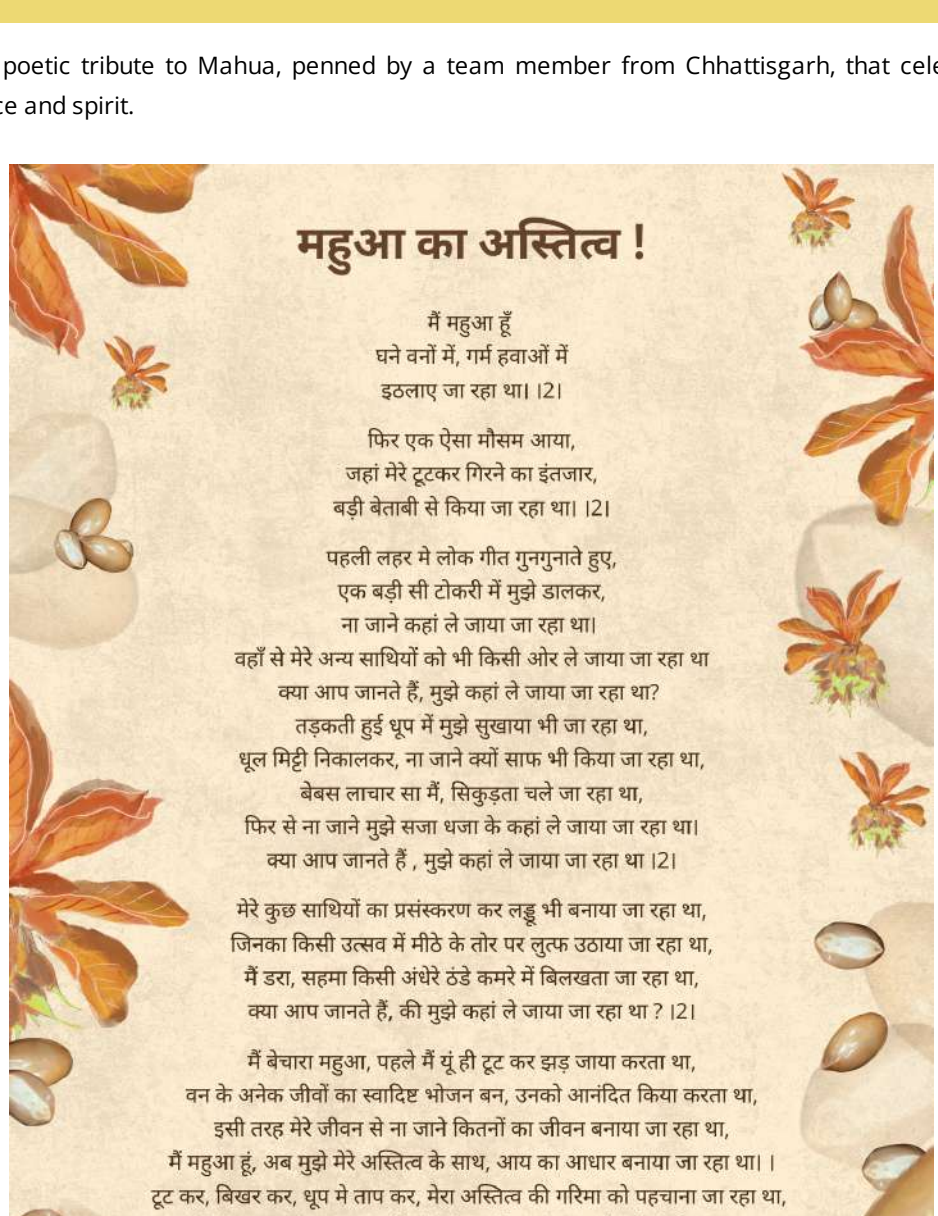
### Compendium of Letters for Enhancing FRA 2006 Implementation

A compendium of various enabling orders, passed under the State Governments of Odisha and Maharashtra, has been compiled for better understanding and implementation of Forest Rights Act, 2006. Led by the faculty members and research officers of the Centre for Climate Change & Sustainability Studies of Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), Mumbai, this compendium of orders aims to benefit a wide range of stakeholders working in the domain across levels and departments. Click [here](#) or scan the QR codes to read them!



## Creative Corner

Read this poetic tribute to Mahua, penned by a team member from Chhattisgarh, that celebrates its significance and spirit.



Contribute to conversations, stories and learning experiences for the Commons Post newsletter. Fill in this form [here](#).

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For any queries or suggestions, please write to us at [contact@promisedcommons.in](mailto:contact@promisedcommons.in)

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