

# STRC NEWSLETTER

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### Celebrating 80 Glorious Years: Felicitation of Padma Vibhushan Dr. Anil Kakodkar

Padma Vibhushan Dr. Anil Kakodkar, the guiding light and a key contributor to India's strategic atomic energy programme and the former chairman, Atomic Energy Commission ...


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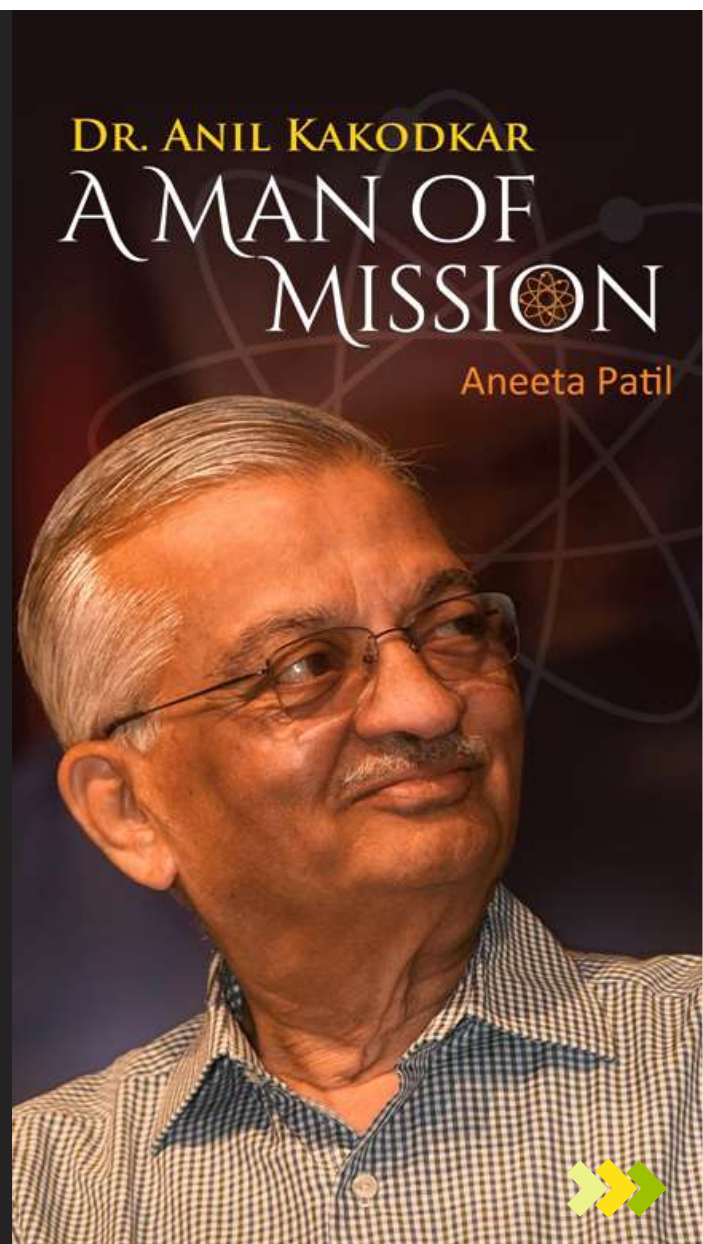
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## Gondwana Craft : STRC's Social Entrepreneurship Platform »»

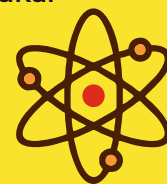
-  An initiative by STRC to bring traditional art-forms of the region under one umbrella brand, 'Gondwana Craft', with an artisan centric approach to preserve and promote these unique yet dying art-forms on a sustainable and viable social entrepreneurship platform.



## DR. ANIL KAKODKAR A MAN OF MISSION

Aneeta Patil

Padma Vibhushan Dr. Anil Kakodkar has been a key contributor to India's strategic programme, his sterling leadership led to a significant boost to its advancement in nuclear power.



Technology | Enterprise | Development



## Science & Technology Resource Centre Gondwana University, Gadchiroli

A centre of excellence for sustainable value creation, conceived and funded by Rajiv Gandhi Science and Technology Commission (RGSTC), Mumbai, Govt. of Maharashtra.

STRC is a registered society, 'Science & Technology Resource Centre Foundation Gadchiroli', under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 (XXI of 1860).

## Aquaculture Technologies for Sustainable Livelihoods in Vidarbha : A Comprehensive Overview

Fisheries and aquaculture play a pivotal role in augmenting food supply, generating employment, improving nutrition, and earning foreign exchange. In Vidarbha, the sector has transitioned from its traditional role to a vital commercial activity, with a total inland fish production of 68,563 tonnes in 2021-22. However, the growth rate in fish production from open water bodies and freshwater aquaculture has been sluggish. This can be attributed to the limited focus on sustainable development, especially in reservoirs, community tanks, and village ponds.

To unlock the untapped potential of these resources and enhance livelihood opportunities, innovative freshwater fish grow-out technologies are crucial. Techniques such as Carp Polyculture, Composite Carp Culture, and the cultivation of air-breathing fishes like Catfishes have the potential to revolutionize aquaculture in Vidarbha. Additionally, the integration of fish farming with animal husbandry and agriculture, such as Fish-cum-cattle farming, offers sustainable solutions, enhancing resource utilization and reducing risk through crop diversification.

The cultivation of giant freshwater prawn, *Macrobrachium rosenbergii*, alongside carps, presents a lucrative avenue, with seed production challenges addressed by hatcheries in coastal states. Furthermore, non-conventional systems like cage culture and pen culture, along with newer technologies such as Recirculating Aquaculture System (RAS) and Biofloc fish farming, provide efficient and controlled environments for intensive fish farming.

Initiatives like the collaborative projects between Science and Technology Resource Centre (STRC) and Maharashtra Animal & Fishery Sciences University (MAFSU) have demonstrated the successful implementation of improved and sustainable fish culture technologies. In the first phase, efforts were made to disseminate these technologies in Gadchiroli district, resulting in additional income for Women Self Help Groups (WSHG) through improved fish farming practices. The positive impact was evident in the livelihoods of WSHG members and prompted new farmers to adopt fish culture in their ponds.

In the second phase, the MAFSU-STRC project focuses on organized fish seed production, culture, and marketing, forming Fish Farmers Interest Groups (FIG) in various blocks of Gadchiroli. Training and demonstrations on various aspects of fish culture,



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Assistant Professor,  
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installation of portable carp hatcheries, and promotion of live fish marketing through Fish Vending Units are integral components of this phase. The goal is to ensure sustainable livelihood opportunities and establish market linkages with consuming centers.

In conclusion, the adoption of innovative aquaculture technologies and collaborative initiatives holds the key to unlocking the vast potential of inland fish production in Vidarbha. This approach not only enhances income for farmers but also contributes to the overall sustainable development of the region.



FISH VENDING UNIT



PORTABLE CARP HATCHERY



GROW-OUT FISH

## Celebrating 80 Glorious Years: Felicitation of Padma Vibhushan Dr. Anil Kakodkar

Padma Vibhushan Dr. Anil Kakodkar, the guiding light and a key contributor to India's strategic atomic energy programme and the former chairman, Atomic Energy Commission, Govt. of India, was felicitated on the occasion of his 80th birthday in an event organized by Marathi Vidnyan Parishad, at the Institute of Chemical Technology, Mumbai, on November 28, 2023. The event, witnessed a gathering of distinguished personalities, scientists, students and well-wishers, who came together to honor the remarkable



contributions of Dr. Anil Kakodkar. Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor of Gondwana University, Gadchiroli, Dr. Prashant Bokare, extended a warm welcome to Dr. Kakodkar, presenting him with a token of appreciation and a Bamboo Flower Bouquet, crafted by trained local artisans of Gadchiroli, symbolizing sustainable growth and resilience. Dr. C. D. Mayee, eminent agricultural scientist and Chairman, Governing Body, Science and Technology Resource Centre (STRC), Gondwana University, Gadchiroli, in his presentation emphasized on Dr. Kakodkar's role in shaping the CILLAGE program with special focus on the impact STRC has been able to create.

Dr. Kakodkar, in his insightful address, shed light on his visionary concept of 'CILLAGE' and reiterated the critical need for quality education and holistic development, underscoring the significance of empowering rural communities for a balanced socio-economic landscape. The event also witnessed the active participation of principal investigators from various projects across Maharashtra, supported by the Rajiv Gandhi Science and Technology Commission (RGSTC), Mumbai, Govt of Maharashtra. Amongst many projects and initiatives dedicated to science and technology based development, STRC at Gondwana University Gadchiroli, a RGSTC experiment on the successful implementation of the CILLAGE concept, received a special mention. The efforts of STRC were highly appreciated by all attendees, who extended their heartfelt wishes for the organization's future endeavors.

The occasion served as a reminder of the profound impact that Dr. Anil Kakodkar's legacy has had on science and technology centric development of society, inspiring a whole new generation. As we celebrate the extraordinary achievements of Dr. Kakodkar, we honor not just the man, but a lifetime dedicated to the advancement of science and its role in overall human resource development.



## 'Gondwan Vanaushadhi Ropvatika': An Experimental Community Nursery

On December 23, 2023, Science and Technology Resource Centre (STRC), initiated an experimental community herbal plant nursery at Kharkhadi, Dhanora. The nursery was formally inaugurated by Dr. Arun Sapre, Senior Advisor, Rajiv Gandhi Science & Technology Commission (RGSTC) Mumbai, Govt. of Maharashtra. This initiative would serve as a significant effort towards environmental conservation, dedicated to propagating commercially important, rare, endangered, and threatened species, fostering both ecological sustainability and economic benefits for the local community through a revenue generation model in coming years.

On the occasion, a special session of Market Mirchi, was organized for the local farmers. Market Mirchi, a free digital marketplace for farm products aims to empower farmers by enhancing their digital presence and facilitating online marketing. Smt. Pragati Gokhale, Advisor, RGSTC, Nagpur, the flag bearer of the platform, has been instrumental in bringing such an unique marketplace at the fingertips of farmers across the country. Around 40 local farmers participated and learnt the nuances of free digital marketing during the session.

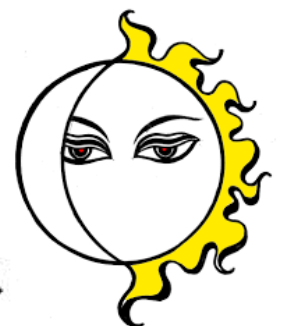
These efforts augurs well for science and technology based community development reinforcing STRC's commitment to innovation and positive societal impact.



## Formal inception of 'Gondwana Craft'

Gondwana Craft, an umbrella brand, has been initiated with a noble purpose to bring in, preserve and promote multiple traditional art forms of the region. It has been instituted with an artisan centric approach to establish a sustainable and viable social entrepreneurship platform to boost the artisan economy of the region. In this context, multiple stakeholders representing different art-forms such as bamboo craft, gond painting, rock dhokra, earthen pottery, and other rural products of the region are being formally brought under the sole proprietorship of STRC Foundation through individual Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).

Recently, a Memorandum of Understanding between STRC Foundation and the Bhamragarh based Devrai Kalagram LLP, a sole proprietorship of Shri. Suresh Pongati has been signed in this regard. As per the MoU, while both the parties have agreed to promote Gondwana Craft, Devrai Kalagram LLP will take care of the demand driven supply of Rock Dhokra artefacts to Gondwana Craft.



## STRC Creates a Lasting Impression at Bhimthadi Jatra and Pune Bamboo Festival

Science and Technology Resource Centre (STRC), Gondwana University, Gadchiroli recently carved its niche at two prominent craft centric cultural events in Pune, leaving an indelible mark of art and craftsmanship, at the 5-day 'Bhimthadi Jatra,' held between December 21st and 25th, 2023. STRC showcased artistic creations of Self-Help Groups (SHG), Rock Dhokra artisans, Potters and Gond painting artisans from Gadchiroli and Chandrapur region. Bhimthadi Jatra, recognized as the Largest Rural Carnival of Art and Culture in Pune, served as a platform to celebrate and preserve India's traditional handlooms and handicrafts. STRC seized the opportunity to present an array of products under the brand 'Gondwana Craft', featuring bamboo crafts, rock dhokra, Gond paintings, and earthen pottery for sale, garnering admiration from visitors and organisers alike.

STRC participated another event, Pune Bamboo Festival organised between 22nd to 24th December 2023 by Bamboo Society of India. The festival provided an ideal setting for STRC, with hundreds of visitors flocking in to the stall. Visitors appreciated varieties of products under Gondwana Craft, including innovative low-cost tools and bamboo toys developed by STRC.



## STRC Participated in Multiple Events under the Chief Minister's Women Empowerment Campaign in Gadchiroli

Science and Technology Resource Centre (STRC), Gondwana University Gadchiroli was invited to participate in the Chief Minister's Women Empowerment Campaign and Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra in Armori and Wadsa blocks of Gadchiroli, Maharashtra on 7th and 12th December 2023 respectively. STRC not only shared insights on women's empowerment through bamboo based entrepreneurship but also seized the opportunity to showcase its popular products in the bamboo craft category, contributing to the cultural richness of the event.



## STRC at the 10th Annual Global Nagpur Summit 2023

STRC was invited to be part of the 10th Annual Global Nagpur Summit; "Towards Resilient Rurban Economy", organized by the Nagpur First Foundation at Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Nagpur on December 9th-10th, 2023. Among many notable participating organizations, Rajiv Gandhi Science & Technology Commission (RGSTC), Government of Maharashtra funded Science & Technology Resource Centre (STRC), Gondwana University Gadchiroli, had a significant presence at the event. STRC team led by Shri Ashis Gharai, Chief Program Officer & Head- STRC, and Smt. Pragati Gokhale, Advisor, RGSTC, Nagpur actively participated in multiple plenary sessions. STRC showcased exquisite products under Gondwana Craft to the diverse audience at the event.



## Director, Department of Higher Education, Maharashtra Visited STRC

On December 16, 2023, Dr. Shailendra Deolankar, Director (In-charge), Dept. of Higher Education, Maharashtra, visited Gondwana University Gadchiroli and appreciated university's commitment to provide innovative and employable course curriculum in form of Vidyapith Aplya Gavati, a community-focused educational initiative, the Model Degree College, EKAL Gramsabha Project, and Science and Technology Resource Centre (STRC). During his brief visit to STRC, Chief Program Officer and Head, Shri Ashis Gharai, provided a comprehensive overview of the organization's unique interventions. He commended the university's commitment to offering courses that not only empowers students with knowledge but also equips them with the skills needed for real-world success.





### About STRC

Conceived and funded by Rajiv Gandhi Science and Technology Commission (RGSTC), Mumbai, Government of Maharashtra, Science & Technology Resource Centre (STRC) is an autonomous institute established in concurrence with Gondwana University, Gadchiroli. STRC is entrusted with generating livelihood opportunities by deploying appropriate science and technology, particularly for the under-served tribal communities of the Gadchiroli region since 2014. As a centre of excellence for sustainable value creation, STRC is leveraging local resources, relevant knowledge and appropriate technologies for human capacity development. STRC acts as a catalyst to science and technology based development of the region and as a bridge between knowledge activities of the University and enhanced livelihoods in the neighborhood.

### Core Verticals

- » Aquaculture & Livelihoods
- » Bamboo Craft & Livelihoods
- » NTFP Medicinal Plants and Other Livelihoods
- » Applicable R & D and Academic Program Development
- » Communication for Development through ICT



### STRC Offers :



STRC Assistance for S&T  
Application Scheme  
Research Grants



One Year Undergraduate  
Diploma in Bamboo  
Entrepreneurship and  
Design



Vaidya Chikitsalay  
A unique platform to promote  
traditional healers and healing  
practices