



## **Reliance Foundation undertakes revival of Sona River**

*RF takes sustainable measure to ensure water to 14000 people and 2500 acres of parched Marathwada*

Aurangabad, May 21: The Marathwada region of Maharashtra is parched. Repeated failures of monsoons over the years, over exploitation of ground water, and the resultant depletion of water tables, have crippled the region's economy.

For the past four years, Reliance Foundation (RF), through its flagship Rural Transformation programme, has been working to provide long-term solution to Marathwada's water woes.

As a major step, RF has undertaken the rejuvenation of Sona River at Soygaon in Aurangabad district of Maharashtra. This project will benefit 14,000 people and irrigate 2,500 acres of land in five villages –Amkheda, Galwada, Wetalwadi, Soygaon and Sonadwad. It will also recharge more than 100 wells in the region to ensure that there is no shortage of drinking water.

Soygaon, one of the remotest blocks of Aurangabad district, has been crippled by water scarcity. Most of the wells/bore-wells in the area have dried up. Forget water for irrigation, the local panchayat doesn't even have resources to supply drinking water to the people of Soygaon.

The Foundation has deployed a team to carry out de-siltation and cleaning of a kilometre-long stretch of the Sona River. Working on a war footing, the team aims to renovate two defunct dams, and build two new check dams on the earmarked stretch of the river before the arrival of monsoon. To ensure sustainability, the team will spread water harvesting awareness among the locals.

### **Mission Rahat: Marathwada**

As an immediate relief for the parched region, RF, in collaboration with government agencies, has identified 100 most distressed villages in the four Marathwada districts of Latur, Hingoli, Jalna and Nanded, and has developed a system to deliver drinking water to over 50,000 families living in these villages. Each village is supplied 3-4 tankers of water per day – an efficient system, put in place by RF, ensuring equitable and safe distribution of water. Nearly 100 water tankers are deployed daily to supply water to the villages.

“We were struggling to get water as there is no source near our village,” says Sanjana Pawar of Sevanagar Tanda in Latur district. “All our work came to a standstill as we spent whole days hunting for water. Our daughters too joined us, and affected their studies. Thanks to Reliance Foundation, we are now getting drinking water at home.”

Mahajan Anandrao Shinde of Harbal village in Nanded district says, “This RF initiative to provide drinking water has been very helpful. Before RF deployed the water tankers, there





was very little water available. Reliance Foundation has been our saviour by providing drinking water to us.”

**About Reliance Foundation:**

Reliance Foundation, the philanthropic arm of Reliance Industries Limited, aims to play a catalytic role in addressing the nation’s development challenges through innovative and sustainable solutions. Led by Founder and Chairperson Mrs. Nita Ambani, Reliance Foundation is relentlessly working towards facilitating transformative changes to ensure overall well-being and higher quality of life for all by developing the nation’s social capital. Among India’s largest social initiatives, the Foundation is focused on addressing the nation’s development challenges in areas of Rural Transformation, Education, Health, Sports, Disaster Management, Urban Renewal, and Arts, Culture and Heritage. The Foundation’s direct, hands-on approach has touched the lives of more than six million people across India, in more than 10,500 villages and urban locations.

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