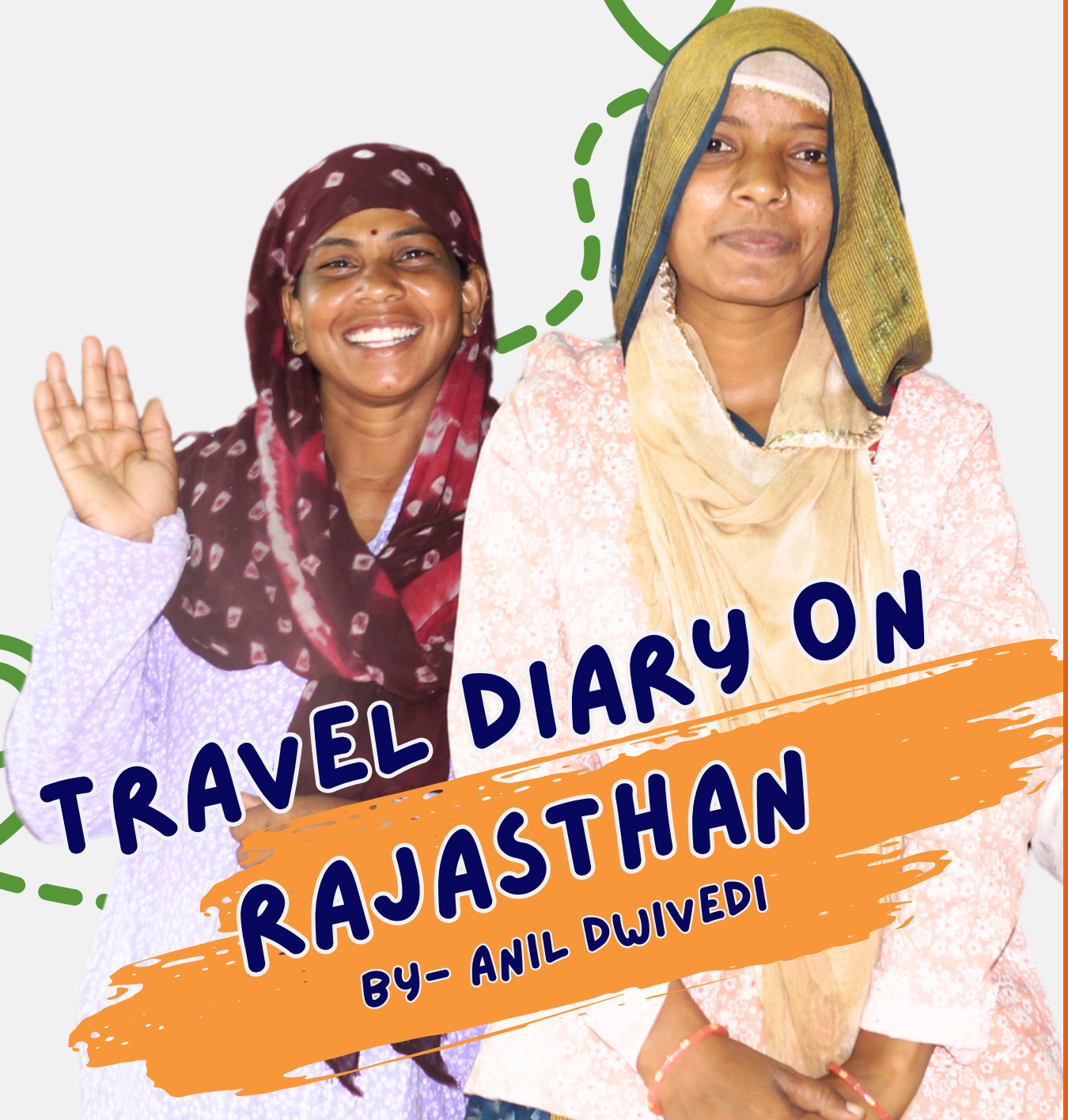


FS-NEWSLETTER

# FS INSIGHTS



TRAVEL DIARY ON  
**RAJASTHAN**  
BY- ANIL DWIVEDI



# EXPLORE

## *FINISH-in Rajasthan*

### **KOTA - SWACHHATA KHUSHHALI PROJECT**

The project in Kota collaborates with residential societies for wet waste management. Hari Prasad Rahi, a committed volunteer, supports the initiative, with Project Manager Umesh and his team—Salma, Sachin, and Christopher—working tirelessly for successful implementation.



### **SHRI SANWALIYA SETH JI TEMPLE, MANDFIYA**

In Chittorgarh, the Finish Society partners with the temple trust to enhance village and market cleanliness. Guddi, Maya, and the team, led by Project Manager Rajendra, have significantly improved sanitation efforts in Mandfiya.



### **UDAIPUR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION**

Our team operates in 16 wards, focusing on waste collection, mohalla committee formation, and home composting awareness. Lata, Madhu, and Neha are dedicated to enhancing community engagement and cleanliness in Udaipur.



### **DUNGARPUR MUNICIPAL COUNCIL**

Dungarpur's clean city status is a result of the Finish Society's collaboration with the municipal council. With volunteers like Sohan Kunwar and leadership from Project Manager Lakhan Ji, the initiative sets an exemplary standard of sanitation.



## STORIES OF COMMUNITY-DRIVEN CLEANLINESS AND SUSTAINABILITY

# THE CATALYST BEHIND LANDMARK PARADISE SOCIETY'S WASTE MANAGEMENT TRANSFORMATION:

## Kota - DCM Shriram Foundation's Swachhata Khushhali Project:

In Kota, the project focuses on managing wet waste in residential housing societies with the involvement of community members. Hari Prasad Rahi, a proactive citizen, has been a volunteer and played a crucial role in spreading awareness. Project Manager Umesh, along with his team members Salma, Sachin, and Christopher, are making dedicated efforts to ensure the project's success.

This story revolves around Mr. Hari Prasad, a resident of Kota city and the current president of Landmark Paradise Society. The journey of transformation began approximately a year and a half ago, when the Swachhata Khushhali Project, run by the DCM Shriram Foundation, initiated work with the Residential Welfare Associations (RWAs) to improve waste management in societies.

As part of the project, the FINISH team started working on improving waste management in various societies, including Devashish Housing Society. During one of the awareness programs conducted by the FINISH team, where they were explaining waste management and the concept of home composting to the residents, Mr. Hari Prasad was present among the audience. Although he primarily resides near Kota Railway Station, he had also purchased a flat in Landmark Paradise Society to provide a better living standard for his family. Currently, he serves as the president of this society.

Inspired by the concept of home composting, Mr. Hari Prasad was eager to implement the same in Landmark Paradise Society. He approached the DCM Shriram Foundation and requested them to initiate similar activities in his society. Understanding that starting a new project in a different location takes time, Mr. Hari Prasad's enthusiasm led him to take matters into his own hands. With the help of Mr. Christopher, one of the most active members of the FINISH team, he began home composting at his own residence.



On the terrace of his home, Mr. Hari Prasad had already established a beautiful terrace garden, filled with various flowers and seasonal vegetable plants. The plants required a regular supply of compost, and this need led him to set up seven separate earthen pots where he started depositing wet waste from his household.

Throughout this period, Mr. Hari Prasad remained actively involved in various events organized under the "Swachhata Khushhali Project." When the compost was finally ready, and he used it in his terrace garden, it marked a significant day for him—a day when his hard work bore fruit.

When the Swachhata Khushhali Project was officially launched in Landmark Paradise Society, Mr. Hari Prasad's experience and support played a crucial role in overcoming various challenges, such as constructing a shed for composting and ensuring the segregation of wet and dry waste.

Individuals like Mr. Hari Prasad play a vital role in the success of initiatives like the Swachhata Khushhali Project, making them true champions of change in their communities.

# SHRI SANWALIYA SETH JI TEMPLE, MANDAPHIA, BHADSORA - CHITTORGARH:

Kota - DCM Shriram Foundation's Swachhata Khushhali Project:



In my journey to FINISH Society project sites in Rajasthan left me with a deep sense of fulfilment and pride. This trip wasn't just about visiting a historic site; it was about witnessing the transformation of a community through dedication and teamwork.

My journey to Chittorgarh left me with a deep sense of fulfillment and pride. This trip wasn't just about visiting a historic site; it was about witnessing the transformation of a community through dedication and teamwork.

Our destination was the Shri Sanwaliya Seth Temple Mandaphiya, Bhadasoda village, just 28 kilometers from Chittorgarh on the road to Udaipur. This temple is not only a spiritual beacon but also a place of immense cultural significance. Legend has it that the revered saint Mirabai worshipped here, adding to its rich heritage. The temple draws thousands of devotees annually, especially during festivals like Janmashtami, when the influx of visitors can be overwhelming.

The challenge was immense. The sheer volume of people visiting the temple and the surrounding markets made maintaining cleanliness a daunting task. The local administration and village council were doing their best, but the crowd size often exceeded their capacity. It was clear that a specialized approach was needed.

FINISH Society was honored to be chosen for this vital task. At first, our journey was fraught with challenges. Gaining the cooperation of the locals, addressing their concerns, and changing mindsets about cleanliness was no small feat. There was resistance, and some felt that sanitation wasn't their responsibility. Despite these hurdles, we pressed on, motivated by the belief that keeping the temple clean was, in itself, a form of service to the divine.

Our approach was simple but effective. We educated the community about the importance of cleanliness as part of their devotion and encouraged them to use waste bins instead of littering. We also supported our sanitation workers by ensuring their well-being with benefits like EPF and ESI, making them feel valued and secure.

I felt an extraordinary sense of energy among the cleaning team. These sanitation workers weren't merely performing their duties; they were working with a deep sense of devotion, believing that their task was not just to clean but to serve the divine. This transformation came from the understanding that their work was an opportunity to serve not only the temple but also Lord Sanwaliya Seth himself.

Two names stood out to me the most: Maya and Guddi. Their stories were similar, but their journeys had given them remarkable strength and resilience, making them a source of inspiration for all of us.

Maya has a young daughter, and Guddi has two sons, aged 10 and 12. Both women were married into families in distant villages, but their husbands, trapped in the grips of alcohol and gambling, were unable to support the household. Left with no choice, Maya and Guddi decided to return to their parental homes. However, they did not want to be a burden on their families, so they joined hands with the FINISH Society and found purpose in their work as sanitation workers. Whether it was scorching heat or heavy rains, Maya and Guddi were always punctual and committed to their jobs. Their enthusiasm and dedication were contagious. A perfect example of this was on September 14, 2024, during the grand procession of the Jaljhulni Ekadashi festival. As the crowd celebrated with flowers and colors, Maya, Guddi, and their team were busy ensuring the streets were spotless.

I saw it with my own eyes: as the procession moved forward, Maya and Guddi immediately started cleaning the streets. By the time people returned along the same route, they were astonished to find the roads already clean. It was as if a miracle had occurred.

They couldn't understand how it was possible for the streets to be cleaned so quickly despite the massive crowd and festivities. But I knew the truth—this was the result of Maya and Guddi's unwavering commitment and tireless efforts.

Their dedication went beyond just doing a job; it was driven by a genuine sense of service. FINISH Society didn't just launch a sanitation campaign—it provided Maya and Guddi with a renewed sense of purpose and dignity. They not only improved their financial situation but also found pride in their work and a deep sense of responsibility toward the community.

I am honored to have witnessed their journey and to have met such inspiring women. Maya and Guddi are living examples of how true service can transform lives and uplift communities. Their devotion is a testament to the fact that no job is ordinary when done with the heart and spirit of service. One of the most memorable moments during my meeting with Mr. Gulab Singh, the former Swacchta Prabhari of the temple, was when he shared his appreciation for our work. He recounted how, during this year's Holi festival, the temple grounds were covered in several hundred kilograms of colorful powder.



Despite the enormity of the task, our team worked relentlessly through the night. By 4 a.m., just in time for the Mangla Aarti, the temple was immaculate, with no trace of the previous night's celebrations left behind. Mr. Singh's recognition of our efforts was a powerful testament to our team's dedication and the collective spirit of the community.

Our efforts didn't go unnoticed. During festivals and processions, our team's hard work was evident. We ensured that the roads were clean, and the streets were welcoming for returning visitors. The appreciation from the public and the respect from the temple administration were deeply rewarding. Ashok Sharma from Sadasy Mandir Mandal, recognizing the significant impact of our work. Even Dr. Faruq, the village pradhan's husband, and journalist Mr. Umesh Tripathi praised our efforts.

The honor didn't end there; we received a certificate of appreciation from the temple management and administration. This recognition was not just for the cleanliness but for the spirit of collaboration and service that defined our approach.

This journey through Chittorgarh was more than a project; it was a heartfelt mission to bring cleanliness and order to a sacred place. It reminded me of the power of dedication and teamwork, and the profound impact that collective effort can have on a community.

# FROM WASTE TO WONDER: GEETA AND LUCKY SHARMA'S INSPIRING TERRACE GARDEN TRANSFORMATION:

Udaipur Municipal Corporation:

In Udaipur, our team is actively working in 16 wards to manage waste collection, strengthen mohalla committees, and promote home composting among residents. Team members Lata, Madhu, and Neha are efficiently handling these responsibilities.

In Ward No. 56, Mrs. Geeta Sharma and her son, Mr. Lucky Sharma, have become local champions of cleanliness and waste management, earning admiration for their commitment to creating a cleaner and greener community. Their dedication to promoting hygiene and sustainable living practices has set a remarkable example, inspiring neighbors and relatives alike.

Geeta Sharma, an active member of her Mohalla Committee, has been at the forefront of waste management efforts in her community. She collaborates closely with other committee members to raise awareness about proper waste segregation, composting at home, and the importance of maintaining a clean environment. Her hands-on approach not only educates the residents but also empowers them to take ownership of their surroundings.

On the other hand, Lucky Sharma, Geeta's enthusiastic son, plays a pivotal role in engaging the youth of their neighborhood in cleanliness initiatives. He motivates young people to adopt sustainable practices like waste segregation and recycling, transforming their outlook on waste from something disposable to something valuable. Lucky's efforts have inspired many to start managing waste at home, thus contributing to the overall cleanliness of their area.

However, what truly sets the Sharma family apart is their passion for gardening, which is beautifully reflected in the terrace garden they've created on the rooftop of their home. Lucky, with his creative mindset, saw potential in the discarded plastic containers and bottles from his shop. Instead of throwing them away, he repurposed them into unique planters, turning the terrace into a green oasis that is the pride of their home.





The arrangement is so captivating that any guest who visits their home is inevitably drawn to the rooftop garden, marveling at the creativity and lushness of the space. The terrace garden is more than just a collection of plants; it's a testament to the family's commitment to sustainability. Lucky's innovative use of waste materials not only saves costs but also adds a personal touch to each corner of the garden, making it a visual delight. Visitors are often amazed at how beautifully the repurposed items blend with the greenery, creating a serene space that stands as a vibrant example of upcycling at its best.

Geeta Sharma has further enriched their terrace garden by utilizing compost made from kitchen waste. Having learned the art of composting from the FINISH Society team, she now converts her kitchen scraps into nutrient-rich compost that nourishes the plants. This closed-loop system not only reduces waste but also provides organic fertilizer for their beloved garden, making it self-sufficient and eco-friendly.

The Sharma family's terrace garden has become a local attraction, frequently visited by relatives, neighbors, and friends who come to admire its beauty and draw inspiration. The sight of blooming flowers and thriving plants, all nurtured in recycled containers, serves as a daily reminder of the power of individual action in making a difference. It's not just a garden; it's a conversation starter, an educational space, and a community influencer.

Geeta and Lucky's journey from waste to wonder illustrates that small, consistent efforts can lead to significant impacts. Their work goes beyond personal fulfillment; it embodies the spirit of community service and environmental stewardship. Through their efforts, they have not only beautified their home but have also sown seeds of change in the hearts of their community members.

Their story is a powerful example of how individual actions can inspire broader community involvement. As Geeta and Lucky continue to cultivate their terrace garden, they are also nurturing a culture of sustainability, one that grows with every plant, every visit, and every conversation sparked by their rooftop masterpiece.

# SOHAN KUNWAR: CULTIVATING A GREEN LEGACY IN DUNGARPUR

Dungarpur Municipal Council:



Dungarpur has become one of the cleanest cities in Rajasthan due to the efforts of the local municipal council and Finish Society. Volunteers like Sohan Kunwar have been invaluable, and Project Manager Lakhan Ji's remarkable dedication has been instrumental in achieving this success.

In the serene district of Dungarpur, Rajasthan, lives Sohan Kunwar, a woman who has turned her lifelong passion for gardening into a mission to promote sustainable living. Sohan Kunwar resides with her husband, Dr. Chandra Prakash Panwar, a well-respected homeopathic practitioner in the area. Despite her advancing years, Sohan Ji is far from slowing down; instead, she is nurturing a green revolution in her community.

Sohan's love for gardening began in her childhood when she would assist her father in agricultural work. This early exposure to nature sowed the seeds of a lifelong passion for horticulture, which continues to thrive today. Her garden is a testament to her dedication, filled with a variety of flowers and plants that she lovingly cares for as if they were her own children.

Her husband, Dr. Panwar, fondly shares how Sohan never travels without her trusty pair of scissors and a bag. Whenever she comes across a plant or flower that catches her eye, she takes a cutting or even the entire plant home to add to her garden. Her enthusiasm doesn't stop there; she often asks her neighbors for their kitchen waste, which she turns into rich, organic compost for her beloved plants.

Sohan Kunwar's commitment to organic gardening extends beyond just planting; she has mastered the art of composting. In her own home, she produces organic compost using the wet waste generated by her household. This valuable skill was learned through training from Narendra Sharma and Lakhan Panwar, experts from the FINISH Society, and by watching online tutorials from Prateek Mishra, a composting trainer based in Delhi.



At a stage in life where most people are content to retire and relax with their families, Sohan Kunwar is busier than ever. Her days are spent tending to her garden and producing organic compost, ensuring that her plants receive the best possible care. But her contributions go far beyond her own garden.

Sohan has become an integral part of the community efforts led by the FINISH Society in collaboration with the Dungarpur Municipal Council. She selflessly volunteers her time and expertise, participating in various activities to educate others on the benefits of composting and the importance of environmental sustainability. Through workshops and community meetings, she demonstrates how to turn kitchen waste into organic compost and encourages people to create their own gardens or kitchen gardens at home.

One of Sohan's most remarkable traits is her willingness to share her knowledge with others. She frequently visits the homes of friends and relatives, teaching them how to make organic compost from their kitchen waste. She patiently explains the process, emphasizing the use of vegetable and fruit peels, coconut shells, and fallen leaves or branches, which are often considered waste but are actually valuable resources for composting.

Her efforts have not gone unnoticed. The FINISH Society team has recognized Sohan's dedication and enthusiasm, seeing her as a beacon of inspiration in the community. She has become a local hero, not only for her gardening skills but for her tireless work in promoting environmental stewardship.

Sohan Kunwar's story is one of passion, dedication, and a deep connection to the earth. In a world where the environment is increasingly under threat, her efforts serve as a reminder that even small, individual actions can make a significant impact. Through her garden and her composting, she is nurturing not just plants but a more sustainable future for her community.



As she continues to share her knowledge and inspire others, Sohan Kunwar is leaving behind a legacy that will bloom for generations to come. Her life's work is a powerful testament to the idea that it is never too late to make a difference, and that with a little effort, anyone can contribute to a healthier, greener world.

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