

3 Maharashtra: Support during Pandharpur Wari Pilgrimage

During the 20-day *Pandharpur Wari* (Dindi) spiritual pilgrimage in June–July 2025, NSS volunteers provided extensive community and health services along the Pune-Pandharpur route.

Volunteer Engagement & Scope: Nearly 1,000 NSS volunteers from institutions like Savitribai Phule Pune University and Maharashtra University of Health Sciences actively participated, covering hundreds of kilometers.

Activities: Major activities included:

Community Service: Providing *charan seva* (foot service) and massage to old aged devotees, distributing drinking water, and offering emotional support.

Health Support: Medical and health science volunteers organized stationary and mobile health camps for 16–18 days, offering first aid, health checkups, and medicines to thousands.

Civic Engagement: Assisting police in crowd management as *Police Mitra* and conducting awareness campaigns on cleanliness, water conservation, and anti-addiction.

Impact: The efforts promoted environmental responsibility, improved access to healthcare, and ensured the safe and inclusive participation of approximately 5 lakh devotees.

The **Pandharpur Wari** is a centuries-old spiritual pilgrimage in which lakhs of devotees walk from Pune to Pandharpur in devotion to **Lord Vithoba**. Every year, this sacred journey becomes a symbol not only of faith but also of collective social responsibility. During the 20 days **Pandharpur Wari (Dindi) in the month of June-July,2025** nearly **1,000 NSS volunteers** representing **Savitribai Phule Pune University (SPPU), Maharashtra University of Health Sciences (MUHS), Bharati Vidyapeeth, Shivaji University , PAH Solapur Uni , KBP Uni Satara and other institutions** in the Dindi actively participated in making the Wari cleaner, healthier, and socially aware.

Activities Undertaken by NSS Volunteers- The contribution of NSS volunteers was extensive and impactful. Volunteers worked alongside devotees for nearly three weeks, covering hundreds of kilometres. Major activities included:

Awareness Campaigns: Street plays, placard demonstrations, and interactive sessions on water conservation, cleanliness, health awareness, women empowerment, anti-addiction, and promotion of a plastic-free society, reaching Lakhs of devotees during halts.

Swachhata Abhiyan: Cleaning of halting places with special emphasis on plastic waste collection and eco-friendly *Nirmalya* disposal, promoting the message of “**Nirmal & Harit Wari.**”

Police Mitra Service: Assisting police and local administration in crowd management, smooth conduct of programs, and ensuring safety of devotees throughout the route.

SEVA HI SANSKAR – Community Service: Providing *charan seva*, massage to old aged devotees to provide relief from pain, rest support, drinking water distribution, and emotional support to elderly devotees and senior citizens after long walks – IDEAL EXAMPLE OF VOLUNTEERISM –WORKING FOR COMMUNITY

Health Support: Medical and health science volunteers from MUHS-Medical University Institutions organized stationary health check-up camps and mobile health camps for **16–18 days**, offering first aid, health checkups, and medicines to thousands of devotees.

Participation & Reach

Dates / Duration: July 2025 (20 days)

Location: Pune–Pandharpur Wari (Dindi) route, covering multiple districts

Participants: Around 1,000 NSS volunteers from SPPU, MUHS, Bharati Vidyapeeth, Shivaji University, KBP Uni Satara, PAH Solapur University, SRTM Nanded, and affiliated colleges

Beneficiaries: 5 lakh devotees including elderly persons, women, children, and devotees

Impact / Outcome- The collective efforts of NSS volunteers during the **Pandharpur Wari 2025** resulted in:

Promotion of environmental responsibility through cleanliness and plastic-free initiatives

Improved access to healthcare through health camps and mobile medical services

Enhanced social awareness on issues such as, cleanliness, addiction, women's safety, and water conservation

Safe and inclusive participation of elderly devotees and persons in need

Strengthened youth development through values of discipline, teamwork, empathy, and large-scale community service

3. Photographs of volunteer activities/programmes (high-resolution, with captions and source credit) i.r.o. NSS.



NSS Volunteers of Mumbai University helping senior citizens at polling centres during Municipal corporation Election on 15 Jan, 2026