
With solar power, Rotary Club brings life to Palghar

FPJ NEWS SERVICE / MUMBAI

The lives of 393 people inhabiting Murbichapada, Rautpada, Kandipada and Chaudharipada hamlets in Palghar have been literally lit up, thanks to the Rotary Club of Bombay. Under the 37th Integrated Village Development Project, the club strived for four years to set up solar power installations in the Suksale area of Vikramgad taluka.

Supported by Sumitomo Chemical, the project has made life-enhancing facilities like street lights, irrigation pumping and water filtration units accessible to the hinterlands. Club President Manoj Patodia said that rain-fed agriculture is the villagers' sole source of livelihood. However,



lack of perennial water poses a serious problem for them. Also, the village is enveloped by darkness post sunset due to poor street electrification, making it unsafe for women and kids to step outside.

Pratibha Pai, the founder of Chirag Rural Development Foundation, which is the club's on-ground partner in the initiative, said 10KW solar pumping systems will enable lift irrigation from the river and distribute water across farmland.