

Sensing the Shifts, Remembering the Roots



Gratitude

['gratɪtju:d]
noun; a way of interaction



The holiday season surrounds us with familiar cues of warmth and gathering. Lights glow across homes, festive meals carry aromas that anchor memories, and even the air feels different in this period, filled with hints of reunion and reflection.

Gratitude rises more easily during these days, shaped by shared tables, safe homes, and the comfort of belonging. This atmosphere prepares the mind to receive the year with openness, care, and renewed attention. Within this spirit, we can begin to recognize the many layers of our planet that support this ease.

Across our country, Maharashtra, the climate introduced new sensory cues this year



Along the Konkan coast, the humidity settled on our skin weeks before its time, thickening the air in a way that made early mornings feel saturated before giving the day a chance.



In the midlands Vidarbha, the forests carried a new scent: less like damp wood and more like crisp leaves, as if the monsoon had passed through too quickly.



In our plateaus, fine dust rose with the slightest movement; clinging to our palms, coating our tongues, settling on clothes and crops with equal insistence.



Along the Sahyadri ranges, the greens dulled into olive sooner than we remembered in our childhood memories under a kinder sun.

Colours, smells, sounds, textures – so many of them altered this year. But in our world, noticing what remains still becomes its own form of gratitude. Our homes stayed cool because electricity flowed uninterrupted. Our tables stayed abundant because supply chains absorbed climatic unpredictability. Our days remained structured because the climate burdens we did not feel were absorbed by others.

This is gratitude not as sentiment, but as recognition.

A clear-eyed understanding of the layers of systems, human and ecological, that protected our comfort.

What unites these practices is a kind of practical surrender. Not resignation, but attunement. A recognition that we are deeply dependent on an unstable climate. It is within this recognition that Raah Foundation places its mission – to restore biodiversity of the Western Ghats for creating prosperity for people and planet – a reminder that the resilience we seek begins with the landscapes that sustain us.

And can we remember with gratitude the water, the winds, the seeds, the soil and the hands that make life possible?

