

The

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SAVE THE MANGROVES

Many human activities compromise the environment. Mumbai's recent plan to construct an eight-lane, 29km-long freeway running along its western coast will destroy mangrove forests along the stretch. Rhea Shetty interviews a representative of the Wetland Management Services Department of Godrej and Boyce to know more about the damaging mangroves affects us all.

How are mangroves different from other plants?

Unlike other plants mangroves possess the ability to grow and survive in unstable saline environment. This is possible due to distinctive features in these plants such as.

- Natural filters in their roots that control the intake of salt.
- Salt glands that remove excessive salt.
- Cable roots that help to fix the plant in its marshy environment.
- Breathing roots that help mangroves survive in soil with low oxygen levels.
- Stilt roots that provide support to the plant's unusual structure.
- Lenticel glands that promote the exchange of gases between the plants and the atmosphere.

- Viviparous germination that allows seeds to sprout and develop primitive shoots and roots on the parent tree.

Why are mangroves important?

Mangroves have an enormous capacity to absorb carbon dioxide from the air and thus are a great tool to combat and ease the effects of climate change. Mangroves provide homes to you and are breeding grounds for several diverse marine animals like fish, prawns, crabs and lobsters, thus also supporting fisher folks' livelihood. They also protect and prevent the shoreline from erosion and are used for timber and in the manufacture of cosmetics, medicines and tannin. Since mangroves form an important gene bank and serve as a habitat to terrestrial, coastal and Marine biodiversity. They are also being used for ecotourism, education and research purposes.

Why should mangroves be saved?



Mangroves are one of the most primitive ecosystems in the world—they evolved around 114 million years ago. They are highly functional and effective in guarding the coastlines of cities from natural calamities like tsunamis, cyclones, floods and seawater ingress. Mangroves also have the ability to soak up excess rainwater, which helps reduce flash floods. The declining number of mangrove forests and destruction of wetlands has led to poor forests. Any city by the coastline needs mangroves to protect it from floods that most Indian cities see every monsoon. Mangroves are also known to stock up carbon in their roots, which makes them strong enough to reduce the impacts of climate change.

If mangroves are a significant part of our ecosystem, why are they being destroyed?

As per the Coastal Regulations Zone Notification, mangroves are protected and cannot be exploited for any industrial purpose. Thus one can only blame poor implementation of laws and lack of encouragement towards the protection of mangroves. Sadly, city planners, developers and citizens do not acknowledge the importance of mangroves. Instead, they wipe them out to create space for construction or use them to dump garbage and wastewater.

How are our marine life and thus the income of fisher folk being affected by the destruction of mangroves?

The destruction of mangroves can lead to a loss of marine life. Mangroves contain an organic matter known as detritus, which acts as the key food source for marine life. It also provides breeding spaces and a permanent habitat to marine creatures. Any adverse impact on mangroves can have a direct and hazardous impact on marine life. And when the catch of fish reduces, fisher folk have less fish to sell, thus affecting their livelihood.

How can the youth of India help save mangroves?

Today's youth lives the 'Use and Throw' lifestyle, which leads to an increase in garbage and wastewater from industrial and residential areas. This gets dumped near the sea, suffocating the mangroves. Also, the micro-plastics present in objects made of plastic, strong chemical and non-biodegradable items we use in our daily lives are responsible for killing mangroves and wildlife in our creeks and seas. Today's youth needs to replace non-eco-friendly products with eco-friendly products and adopt a sustainable lifestyle.

How can human beings coexist with nature?

We need to keep the three Ps in mind—Planet, Profit—and give equal importance to all three in order to coexist with nature. Sustainable development, development of humankind and other biodiversity and protection of naturally available resources like air, water and soil are possible when we learn to differentiate between 'needs' and 'wants' and start controlling our 'wants'. Avoiding habits like littering or spitting in public places, reducing the use of disposal items and adopting healthy practices like using bicycles for short distances and switching off electronic items when not in use are simple ways to coexist with nature. Updating ourselves about environmental challenges and their solutions, spreading awareness about the same and implementing those solutions in our home or neighbourhood are good ways to start off.

What is Godrej & Boyce doing to save mangroves in Vikhroli and otherwise?

Godrej and Boyce manufacturing limited has been conserving hundreds of acres of mangrove forest along the Western bank of Thane Creek since the 1946 in this Rich biodiversity forest a recorded 16 species of mangroves and mangrove associate plants along with 208 bird species 85 butterfly species 81 spider species 31 reptile species and mammals such as Golden jackals wild boars and Indian Mongooses. The mangrove management at godrej is based on the 3 Grand strategy of research conservation awareness this mangrove project has sensitized about 35,000 citizens of the Mumbai metropolitan region in the last 4 years alone.

Godrej extended its mangrove awareness initiatives to the public through three unique initiatives

1. The mangroves mobile app which differ identify 67 Indian mangrove species in 11 Indian languages the pictorial app has been downloaded in 67 countries so far as is available on android and IOS platform
2. Many secrets of mangroves a story book for children that can be sent to any school or institutional library free of cost it is available on demand by sending an email to mangroves@godrej.com with the details of the school or institution individuals can read the book online or download it from www.mangroves.godrej.com
3. A set of eight portable posters in English and Marathi which schools colleges housing complexes corporates or any organised group can download from www.mangroves.godrej.com they can also organise a poster exhibition on your campus for details write to mangroves@godrej.com

Did You Know?

India has a total mangroove cover of more than 4,900 sqkms.

The Wetland Management services department of Godrej and Boyce is dedicated to managing the mangroves of Pirojshanagar in Mumbai the department consists of skilled professionals who are expert in mangrove ecosystems, biodiversity and environmental studies along with field staff, the team scientifically manages mangroves through research, conservation and awareness.

'Honk More, Wait More': Mumbai tests traffic lights that prize the patient driver



There is a fact generally recognized by drivers in India: honk your horn sufficiently boisterous and the traffic lights will doubtlessly change to green. In any case, tired of fretful drivers perpetrating a stunning thunder each time they are compelled to stop, police in Mumbai have concocted another framework to rebuff the individuals who can't hold up at traffic lights peacefully.

The new framework, said the police, was very basic: "honk more, wait more." Known as "the rebuffing signal", Mumbai police introduced a fixed traffic light framework to handle the issue of "foolish honkers", which resets the red traffic signal each time the sound of vehicle horns goes over 85 decibels. For especially sound glad drivers, it could mean a long hold up at the lights.

In a video, which has since circulated around the web, Mumbai police clarified why they had been headed to handle Mumbai's discord of vehicle horns.

"Welcome to the honking capital of the world," said Mumbai police. "Individuals here blare in any event, when the sign is red. Perhaps they figure they will turn the sign green quicker. We, the Mumbai police, were tingling to take care of this."

Mumbai was as of late positioned as the fourth most blocked city on the planet, as indicated by the Tom Tom traffic list, with 65% blockage and drivers spending a normal of eight days and 17 hours in rush hour gridlock every year. Addressing neighborhood media, Mumbai traffic police chief Madhukar Pandey stated: "Tragically, numerous Mumbaikars enjoy crazy sounding which causes commotion contamination, yet harms eardrums, expands pulse, makes pressure and includes traffic disorder."

He added: "All remember it, yet do little to control it. With this, ideally we may make better street teach and guarantee sound less, clamor free and tranquil travel on Mumbai streets."

The thought, which was trialed in November and December, has just picked up energy and there is discussion of turning it out in different urban communities in India. The nation over, Indian urban communities have the most exceedingly terrible traffic on the planet. Bangalore was as of late named as the world's most blocked city, with drivers spending a normal of 10 days trapped in rush hour gridlock, while both Delhi and Pune were likewise in the best 10.

Top 10 Inspirational Indian Women of 2019

Women empowerment has become one of the biggest movements in India. Let's have a look at 10 inspiring women who have proven to be the role models to others in 2019.

* Politician - Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman is positioned at 34th spot on Forbes' World's 100 Most Powerful Women list for 2019. She is India's first full-time female Union Finance Minister and recently held the post of Union Defense Minister.

* Actress - Deepika Padukone - The main lady to be positioned in the best five of the Forbes India Celebrity 100 rundown.

* Entrepreneur - Kiran Mazumdar - Shaw, positioned 65 on the Forbes list, is India's most extravagant independent lady. She is the administrator and overseeing executive of Biocon Limited, a biotechnology organization situated in Bangalore, India.

* Athlete - Dutee Chand is an Indian expert sprinters and current national boss in the ladies' 100 meters occasion.

* Badminton Player - PV Sindhu turned into the main Indian to win gold in BWF World Badminton Championships.

* Pilot - Sub-Lieutenant Shivangi was selected as the first-historically speaking ladies pilot for the Indian-Navy.

* Economist-Gita Gopinath is the primary female Chief Economist of International Monetary Fund (IMF).

* Financer - Anshula Kant is the CFO and overseeing chief of the World Bank Group.

* Pilot - Anipriya Lakra, multi year old inborn lady has become the principal female business pilot from Malkangiri region in Odisha.

* Athlete - Hima Das, an Indian Sprinter won five progressive gold awards in various needs across Polans and the Czech Republic inside 20 days in 2019. She is the second-quickest Asian, including in the main 10 under-20 sprinters on the planet in 2019.

Good News!!

Aspiring young writers from 10yrs to 40yrs age group are invited to share their creative work with THE HULAHUL TIMES for their Youngistaan Supplement.

Mail Your Article on
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PERSON OF INTEREST

This 19-years-old Bihar boy refused NASA's offer to work for his country



and abroad. He is doing his bit to motivate students below class 12 for science and innovation. The main idea is to develop temperament of school students for science, as they can do wonders if shown the right path at an early age.

Still pursuing his B.Tech from Graphic Era University, Dehradun along with his research, he said he would get his Ph.D in five years. But his main aim is to groom 100 young innovators. He is working in that direction with his team which is spread across the country. He is a firm believer that good work is always appreciated and one should never give up, no matter how heavy the odds may appear.

He has just got an invite from Dubai to be the chief speaker at the annual conference, hosted by the chartered accountants of India in Dubai. Another invitation is for the annual science fair in UAE in April. "There is also another one from Singapore. I like speaking to children," said Gopal.

Innovation & Research of Gopal

1. Banana Bio Cell (Patent #: 16/676,566)
2. Paper Bio Cell (Patent #: 17/648,467)
3. Goponium Alloy (Work in Progress)
4. G-Star Powder (Work in Progress)
5. Hydroelectric Bio Cell (Work in Progress)
6. Solar Mile (Work in Progress)
7. Gopa-alaska (Work in Progress)
8. BNC & BNF (Work in Progress)
9. Pseudo Plastic (Work in Progress)
10. Lychee Wines (Work in Progress)

He is just 19, but he has wise head on his young shoulders. If his achievements at such a young age speak volumes of his mettle, his life's objective amply demonstrates his vision for the future not only for himself, but for the society at large.

Today, he is an innovator, a researcher, brand ambassador of a digital education firm and a motivational speaker all rolled into one. He has already got two patents for banana and paper bio cells, while work is under progress on other experiments. He has also been invited among the 30 startups from 10 countries at Taipei exhibition. And he is still a student, doing his B.Tech.

He is Gopal, resident of a nondescript village in Bhagalpur district of Bihar. He studied in a government school, not usually equipped to add wings to the dreams of youth, but he always had other ideas. Not the kind to confine himself to the shackles of poverty, which he grew up with, he started thinking out of box once he got the Inspire Award when he was in Class 10.

It was a simple innovation of developing charge from waste banana leaf. His father, Prem Ranjan Kunwar, a marginal farmer, did not have the resources, but that was no handicap for the promising boy. He thought of pursuing higher.

studies and continue with his innovative pursuit. On August 31, 2017, he met Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"It was just a short meeting of 5-10 minutes and from there I was directed to the department of science and technology, from where I was sent to national Innovation Foundation (NIF), Ahmedabad, where I made 3-4 inventions. It was here that I started getting invitations from abroad, though the first invitation came after my banana leaf innovation that fetched me the Inspire Award," he said.

One of his inventions was the Goponium alloy, which can withstand very high temperature. Some scientists from the USA also came to meet him. He also got invitation from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), he always wanted to do something here in his country so that he could give back to the society something.

Third among four siblings, Gopal said that nearly 75% of the students in the country must be facing the kind of poverty and hurdles in education he experienced in his early life. "My father just earned enough to make both ends somehow meet. He sent my sister to maternal grand parents' place, as there was not enough space in the small house we lived in," said Gopal.

Today, he gets a big signing amount as the brand ambassador of a digital educational platform and gets invite as motivational speaker from different parts of India



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Artists Gallery



Art By: Alisha Adhiya

QUIZ TIME

1. What is the average depth of the world's oceans?
2. Which is the hottest planet in the in our solar system?
3. Who was the Roman Emperor when Jesus was born?
4. Which animal never drinks water in his entire life?
5. How many red blood cells are in the average human?
6. Whom did Shane Warne dismiss with the ball dubbed as the ball of the century?
7. What is the exercise of taking opinions poll of people leaving a polling station asking how they voted?
8. At the 2018 US Open Tennis championships who beat the six times champion Serena Williams in women single finally?
9. Who has won the golden bat in Champions Trophy 2015?
10. What is the length of the Tennis Court?

ANSWERS

1. About 12100 feet
2. Venus
3. Augustus
4. Kangaroo rat
5. 4.7 to 6.1 million cells
6. Mike gatting
7. Exit Poll Right
8. Naomi Osaka
9. Shikhar Dhawan
10. 23.77 metres

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