

Press note - International Day for the Conservation of the Mangrove Ecosystem

Mangrove cell, Mumbai and Mangrove and Marine Biodiversity Conservation Foundation, (Mangrove Foundation) Mumbai has organised various programs to mark the International Mangrove day on 26th July 2019. The objective was to educate the public, especially youth on the importance of the Mangrove Forest in all aspects of life. Events organised at Coastal and Marine Biodiversity Centre, Airoli. Ms. Neenu Somaraj, DCF, Mangrove cell has inaugurated the programme. She said that Mangrove is a neglected species though it is the lifeline of the coastal city like Mumbai. Mangroves play an invisible but inevitable role in the sustainable development of Mumbai hence it needs to be protected.

The events are as follows:-

Marine Matter Lecture Series

Marine matters lecture series - a monthly talk series was started by mangrove foundation on 5th June 2019 which is a platform for debating and discussing on Mangrove and Marine ecosystem. The second talk in the series was organised on 26th July 2019 and Dr Prasad Karnik, President Envirovigil and Vice President Paryavaran Dakshata Mandal who is done remarkable contribution for the Conservation of mangrove ecosystems gave a talk on " Mangrove Matters". He highlighted how Mangroves are well connected to the life of coastal communities.

National Mangrove Photography Competition

A photography competition themed 'Life in a Mangrove Forest' was organised at the national level with an aim to raise awareness about the Mangrove Ecosystem and it's importance. Total 160 plus photographs were received in the competition and from that Cash award of Rs 3000, Rs 2000 and Rs.1000 was given to first, second and third winners respectively and two photographs have bagged special mention. Mr. Srikanth Manneपुरi, Shri. Sudarshan, S. Shri. Niketan Thakur, Shri. Shaunak Modi, Shri. Nitin Vijayan are the winners.

Mangrove school program

Mangrove Foundation has started a nature education program for students of government and aided schools at free of cost. The foundation provides complete pickup and dropping facility to the school so that the school which do not have bus service get an opportunity to visit CMBC, Airoli. Students are exposed to Mangrove and Marine life through interactive sessions. 20 students with 2 teachers of New High School, Kharbav, Bhiwandi visited Coastal and Marine Biodiversity Centre, Airoli. The students visited the interpretation centre and later on mangrove trail was conducted at the centre where they were introduced to various Mangrove and marine species of Thane Creek.

Besides, various events like drawing competition, poster competition, Mangrove trails, essay competition, Mangrove clean up campaign etc were organised in Thane, Mumbai, Palghar, Raigad, Ratnagiri and Sindhudurg to raise awareness on this unique ecosystem.

Neenu Somaraj, DCF, Mangrove cell, Mumbai