





Thane Creek Flamingo Sanctuary

Coastal and Marine Biodiversity Centre
(CMBC)

Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.

The creek is home to some 200 bird species, all well-adapted to this mangrove area. Mumbai has two Important Areas (IBA) - Thane Creek and Sanjay Gandhi National Park. Mumbai's long coastline is home to many waterbirds. Place like Thane Creek, Elephanta Island and Uran are great spots for birdwatching. Some species, like the flamingos, are migratory visiting only in winter. Greater and Lesser Flamingo are a common sight in the creek. Others, like the kingfisher are found all year round. Sometimes, an Osprey or a Greater Spotted Eagle fly by.





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About Mangrove Cell

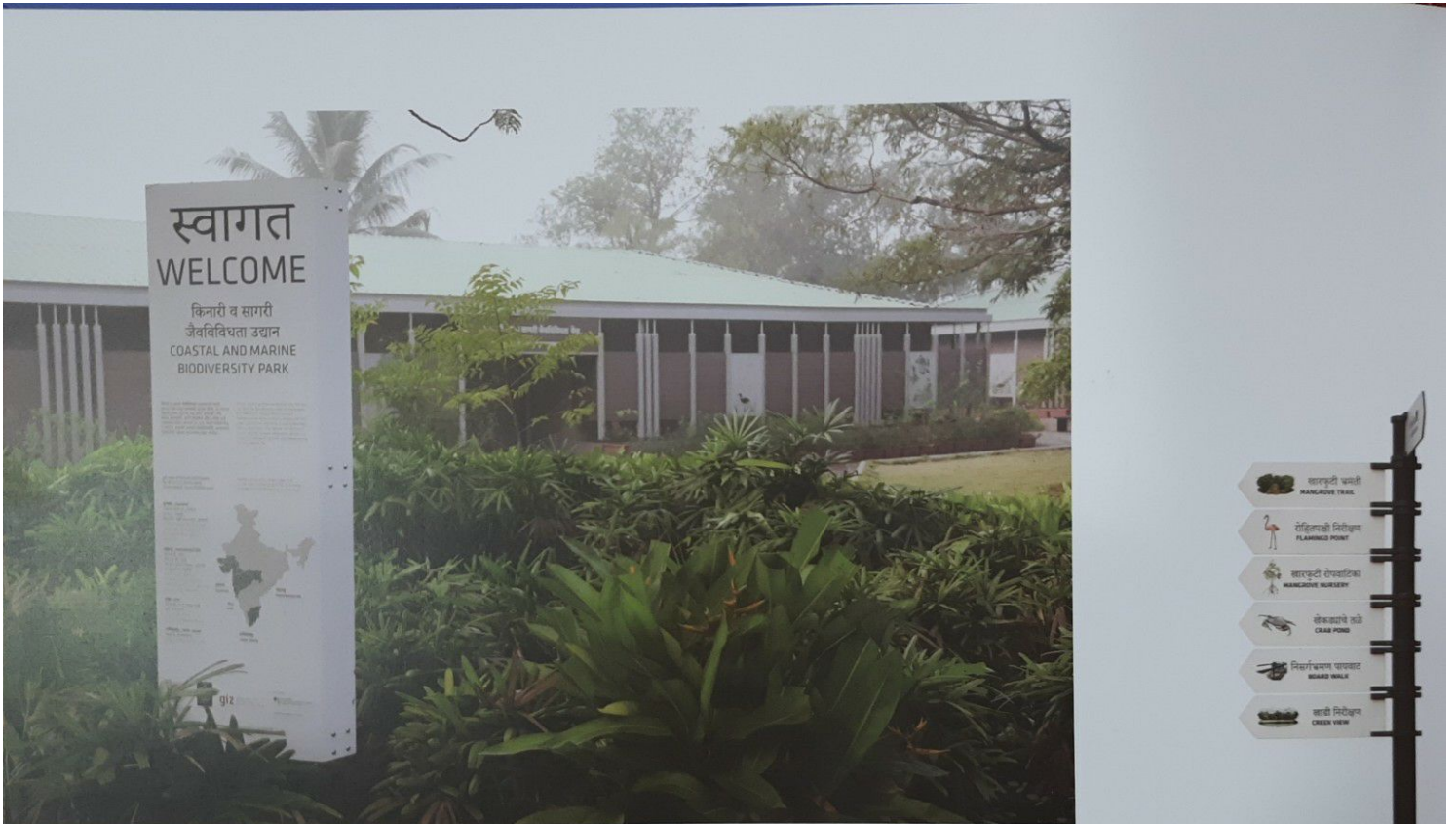
About 30,000 hectares of mangroves adorn our coastal belt, with as many as twenty different species, many of which are rare and endangered. The 720 km. stretch of coast and the waters that caress this landscape are a rich treasure trove of marine biodiversity. Forest Department of Maharashtra ventured into the realm of conserving this biodiversity in 2012 by creating a dedicated unit called the "Mangrove Cell". As the country's first such state-wide unit, its creation has led to the unprecedented extension of the activities of Maharashtra Forest Department to the coastal areas.

The Mangrove Cell was created by the Government of Maharashtra on January 05, 2012 to protect, conserve and manage the mangroves of the State. The creation of the Mangrove Cell is an important step in the conservation and management of mangroves in the State. The Cell has also been given the additional responsibility of conservation of coastal biodiversity; an area seldom paid the attention it deserves. The Cell is headquartered in Mumbai and headed by a Chief Conservator of Forests.

Objectives

Since its establishment, the Mangrove Cell has made concerted efforts for better understanding of the mangrove diversity of the State, to create awareness about the importance of mangroves and to train staff for effective conservation of mangrove areas. With a view to increasing the mangrove cover of the State, the Cell has undertaken several plantation programmes in degraded mangrove areas.





COASTAL AND MARINE BIODIVERSITY CENTRE (CMBC)

Maharashtra's first state-of-the-art Coastal and Marine Biodiversity Centre (CMCB) at Airoli, which is a part of the Thane Flamingo Sanctuary will not only provide nature enthusiasts a better understanding of marine biodiversity through German-made exhibits but will also offer boat rides in the Thane creek to catch a glimpse of flamingos. The 7000 square feet centre has been divided into two parts the first section is dedicated to coastal biodiversity that will house exhibits on mangroves and the aquatic life found on the coast while the second section will showcase marine biodiversity and will have exhibits on whales, dolphins, turtles and others. Tourists visiting the centre can hear the sounds of whales, flamingos, dolphins as well as other species to get a better understanding of their life as well as information about marine ecology.



Outdoor Attractions :

After the indoor fun and education, Centre has some special surprises to walk along and get the real feel at the outdoor area of this centre. Of course the main attraction, those 30 thousand beautiful flamingo in group inside thane Airoli creek is what one can see in real from a location. A new of its type special Crab pond and a big area to walk around and feel the creek and mangroves in real. A beautiful mangroves nursery specially designed to understand mangroves from near in real. A real feel and experience of Thane Airoli Creek which was not available this way before.

Good news for students of municipal schools of Mumbai / Maharashtra is that each week 2 schools will be getting free entry inside centre which is a great move by itself.



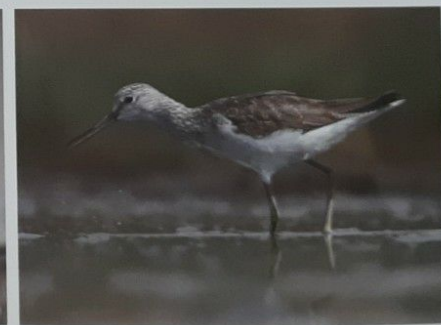
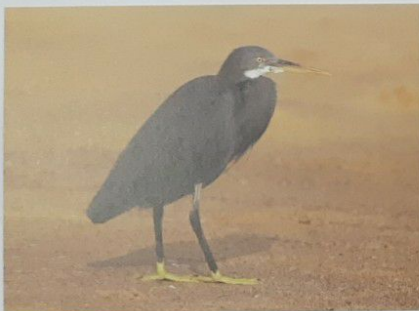


Indoor Attractions :

Moving inside this education centre is this hall which has a touch screen enabled Audio Visual display area, educating people about Coastal and Marine life in much interactive audio visuals for faster access and better grasping. A orientation hall for huge groups with big screen display and other interactive media for personal access and real feel. More indoor attraction being a Souvenir Shop and a special Artificial Flamingo section where many real looking flamingo are kept where you can take pictures, selfies and videos for memories to share with friends and social media.







Top left to right photo : *Acanthus ilicifolius*, *Avicennia marina*, *Sonneratia alba*,
Middle left to right photo : Western Reef Egret, White-bellied Sea Eagle, Wood Sandpiper,
Bottom left to right photo : Common Redshank, Little Scaup, Common Greenshank

Entry Location and Address :

Reaching Airoli Bridge : From Thane or Mumbai, Head towards Mulund East area on Eastern Express Highway. On highway Junction comes Goregaon Mulund Link Road on one side and Mulund Airoli Road on other which leads to the bridge and entry for flamingo watching centre.

Right Season :

Right season to visit flamingo sanctuary is between February End & March beginning till May End (Summer time).

- Elephanta
- Coastal and Marine Biodiversity Park
- Sanjay Gandhi National Park
- Maharashtra Nature Park

