



HSNC UNIVERSITY, MUMBAI Kishinchand Chellaram College



Nature Club

In association with

Department of Life Sciences

Under the aegis of DBT Star Status

Celebrates

WORLD NATURE CONSERVATION DAY

'Forests and Livelihoods: Sustaining People and Planet'



Nature Club and Department of Life Sciences, K. C. College, under the aegis of DBT Star Status celebrated World Nature Conservation Day 2021 on Saturday 31 July, 2021, by organizing an online webinar which comprised of two insightful sessions and a virtual tour of Godrej Mangroves on Zoom platform. Dr. Sagarika Damle, HOD, Department of Life Sciences, K. C. College and Mr. Hemant Karkhanis, Associate Manager, Mangrove Department, Godrej & Boyce Mfg. Co. Ltd. were the eminent resource persons for the event. The webinar was attended by 90 participants which included Junior and Degree college students, faculty members, former faculty members and ex-students of various departments of K. C. College. The webinar was conducted to raise awareness regarding sustainability and to stimulate the minds of young students towards nature conservation.

The webinar was inaugurated by Dr. Tejashree Shanbhag, Convener, Nature Club and Vice Principal, K.C. College. In her welcome address Dr. Shanbhag emphasized on the importance of conserving environment and how a healthy ecosystem is the foundation for sustaining humanity. Keeping with the spirit of the theme for World Nature Conservation Day 2021, Dr. Sagarika Damle, first speaker for the webinar gave an insightful talk on 'Importance of Forests and Sustainable Living'. Ma'am commenced the webinar with a quiz on sustainable development, results for which were announced at the end of the event. Dr. Damle took the audience on trip to the ancient forests of India and their remarkable role in the great Indian epics like Abhigyan Shakuntalam and Ramayana. Elaborating on the story of Khandava Van and its destruction to create the city of Indraprastha in Mahabharata, ma'am talked about the underlying lesson that one can learn from the story if looked at with a scientific attitude. With the audience enthralled, Dr. Damle took the session ahead by defining forests and sustainable livelihood and their interconnection that nurtures human life. After explaining various types of forests and their classification in India, Dr. Damle touched upon the sensitive topic of depleting forest covers around the world and its causes. Talking about sustainable livelihood as a win-win symbiotic relationship between people and forests, Dr. Damle introduced the students to sustainable forest management practices and Matheran Tribal Youth Development Program, which has empowered the tribal youth of Matheran to adopt sustainable development.

Dr. Damle advised the students to equip themselves with skills that will help them to contribute to conservation of nature and discussed about different forest research institutes in India and various job opportunities in the field of forests and sustainability studies. Towards the end of her talk Dr. Damle acknowledged the invaluable contribution of several conservationists and environmentalists who have celebrated and protected our forests over the years. Dr. Damle ended her talk with a call to action, inspiring the audience to become agents of change and help our society and country advance towards achieving sustainability.

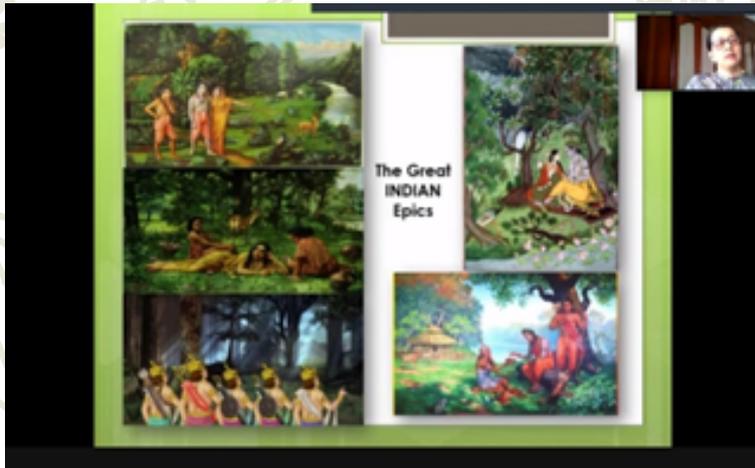
Guiding the topic of conservation closer home, Mr. Hemant Karkhanis, second resource person for the day talked about the magnificent mangroves of Mumbai. In the tête-à-tête session entitled 'Why Do We Need to Conserve Mangroves?' Mr. Karkhanis patiently explained to the students what are mangroves and the numerous ways in which they protect and nurture us. Elaborating on how mangroves are the second green lungs of Mumbai, sir explained the concept of carbon sequestration and the role of mangroves as the first defenders of Mumbai against natural calamities. Talking about their economic value Mr. Karkhanis explained that mangroves have a fragile ecosystem and how rapid urbanization is threatening their existence which in turn will lead to devastating effects on human life. Sir described mangroves as a beautiful amalgamation of strength and vulnerability, and we must take the time to experience and conserve them. Mr. Karkhanis mesmerized the students with the breathtaking biodiversity of mangroves and mangrove associated species, recalling stories from his personal experience as a young researcher invested in the mangroves of Mumbai. Sir explained that the only solution to minimize the environmental degradation is by being aware of our actions and how they affect the environment, to be more conscious and to use our knowledge to do what is in the good of nature. Mr. Karkhanis also informed the students about the various organizations in Mumbai that have been working in the field of mangrove conservation.

Following his talk, Mr. Karkhanis took the audience on a virtual tour of Godrej Mangroves where the audience got to experience mangroves and their associated species like the Mudskipper fish, Telescopium snail, Fiddler crab and a hair raising fight between two venomous snakes. The audience also got a look at the Miyawaki and fishbone plantation of mangroves which is employed in restoration of mangrove cover. After a serene virtual tour that made everyone nostalgic and all the more eager to get back on the field and interact with nature and its wonders, the top scorers of the quiz were announced and the webinar was concluded by a heartfelt vote of thanks by a student volunteer.

This momentous event was successful in helping the participants realize that conserving nature is our shared responsibility, especially for the youth who are the motivators of the society, whose thoughts and opinions, actions and ambitions pave the way for future. The webinar emphasized that it is time we think above our selfish needs because nature is in crisis and life around the world is under threat. Led forward by the knowledge and experience of the resource persons, the event ignited enthusiasm among the young students in the audience to work in the field of environmental conservation and to be the change they wish to see in the world.

- Team KCLSD

Celebrating World Nature Conservation Day 2021

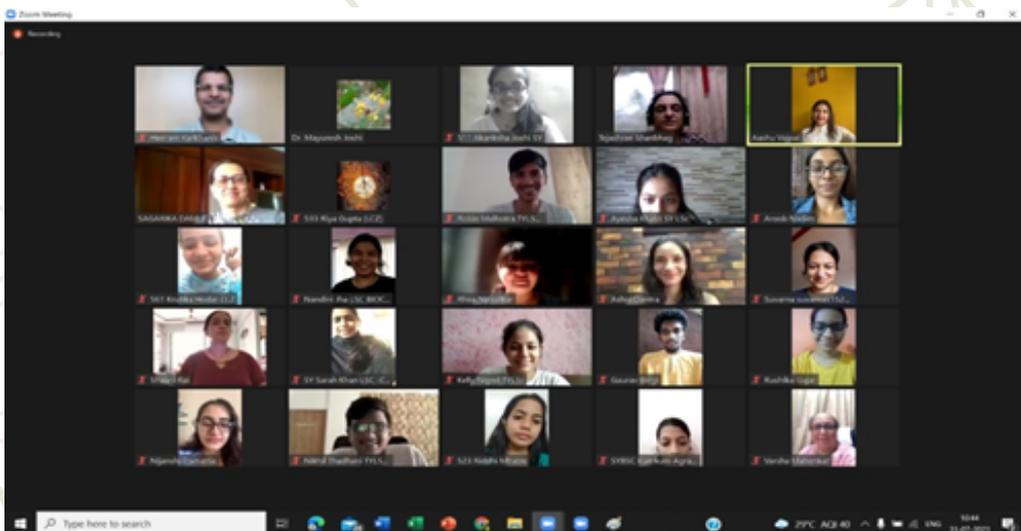


'Importance of Forests and Sustainable Living'

Pic: Dr. Damle explaining forests in Ancient India and their role in Indian epics. One can learn great lessons from them on sustainability and ecological importance if studied with a scientific attitude.

A Virtual Trip to Godrej Mangroves

Pic: Mr. Karkhanis explaining Telescopium snails as indicators of mangroves



Pic: Group photo of the webinar with resource persons