

Print & Electronic Media Reports on Eco Society India activities - 30 times in Print and Electronic media.

Darwin's theory of environment

□ Neighbourhood resident runs NGO for a better future

|BALASUBRAMANI MUNIYANDI|

These are times when people are more aware about the conservation of environment and preserving it for the future generation.

Understanding that this feat can be achieved only with the cooperation of many individuals, Darwin Annadurai, a resident of Chitlapakkam, recently started a NGO called Eco



Darwin Annadurai
Society of India (ESI).
Speaking to *Tambaram Talk*, Darwin says that the

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main aim of the group is to restore the greenery in the suburban area.

'Due to rapid urbanisation, temperature has

(Contd. on page 2)

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DAILY TRIP TO TIRUPATI BALAJI & PADMAVATHI TEMPLE
VIP TICKET

6

TAMBARAM TALK

12 - 18 Aug, 2018

Palm seeds planted at waterbody



Eco Society India, a non-governmental organisation, based

at Chitlapakkam, organised a palm seed planting event in Sembakkam

lake bund in an effort to strengthen it and to create awareness on lake protection and importance of trees.

A press release said Sri Sarvamangala Residents Welfare Association, former local body representatives in Sembakkam, students and volunteers participated in the event and planted the seeds.

'People who gathered during the event were briefed about the importance of water resource protection', the release said. It further said over 250 such seeds were planted and seemai karuvelam trees were removed from the lake using earthmovers.

For details, contact A Darwin at 9444112271.

This 33-yr-old tackles environmental issues at the roots

Published: Oct 10, 2018 @ 02:22 AM

Updated: Oct 10, 2018 @ 02:22 AM

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Having been raised in a locality that has been struck by inundation and flooding every monsoon, Darwin Annadurai, a 33-year-old, has decided to tackle the issue at its roots. Recently, he founded the Eco Society India that aims at ecosystem protection, as a preventive measure to environmental issues.



Darwin Annadurai

Chennai: Talking to *DT Next*, Annadurai, founder-trustee of the society, who holds an MSc in Ecology and Environmental Science and an M Tech in Environmental Engineering from Pondicherry Central University, said that the government's focus has been on damage control, rather than working out ways to nip the problem in its bud.

"They are building drains and culverts to mitigate the impact. That is in no way a solution for the problem," he said.

The society will look at areas like biodiversity, groundwater recharge, micro climate maintenance and control of pollution levels. "People think protecting the environment means planting saplings, but they don't seem to think if the planted sapling will get nourished by the groundwater below," he added, pointing out to the problems closer home, in Chitlapakkam, where the lake has shrunk due to incessant dumping of garbage.

Among many other aspects of the ecosystem, Annadurai is also addressing source segregation as an important way to reduce the garbage that reaches landfills. He noted, "With wet waste comprising 60 per cent of the total waste, when you begin composting in big residential complexes, you are already reducing the amount generated in these places by fifty per cent."

Back in Chitlapakkam, he is batting for the establishment of sewage treatment plant and decentralisation of garbage disposal at



each ward. "The water from the plant can be let into the lake that needs continuous supply of water. I am looking at watershed levels and preservation of waterbodies as the means to prevent any damage to the environment. There is rapid development in the area and people seem to have forgotten the natural path of water for the lakes around," he said.

Annadurai has been worked in private concerns and NGOs addressing solid waste management and also studied the Adyar River from its source. He has been part of the project in Madhavaram Truck terminal, where a solid waste management programme was implemented.

1. <https://www.dtnext.in/News/City/2018/10/10022212/1091592/This-33yrol-d-tackles-environmental-issues-at-the-roots.vpf>

Chennai suburban youth runs NGO to develop environment

Posted on October 3, 2018 by Balasubramani Muniyandi



Chennai: These are times when people are more aware about the conservation of environment and preserving it for the future generation.

Understanding that this feat can be achieved only with the cooperation of many individuals, Darwin Annadurai, a resident of Chittpakkam, near Tambaram in the city suburb recently started a NGO called Eco Society of India (ESI).

Speaking to *News Today*, Darwin says that the main aim of the group is to restore the greenery in the suburban area.

“Due to rapid urbanisation, temperature has increased, pollution is on the rise and people are not even able to breathe fresh air. We want to bring about a change at least for the benefit of our next generation,” he says.

Eco-restoration is the first big step of the group and we are working towards it by collaborating with many associations in the locality and by conducting plantation drives, says Darwin.

“We also work towards the enhancement of the life of the people by educating women self-help groups about the various works that are available. We teach them about mushroom cultivation and honey bee rearing,” he adds.

He further says awareness camps are also conducted in schools and colleges so that the next generation will get to know more about the environment and how to protect it.

“There are many like-minded people who want to contribute to society and we are acting as a platform to unite them,” he explains.

Talking about the garbage dumping problem – one of the major issues in Chitlapakkam – he says decentralisation of segregation is the only way to reduce garbage dumping in the open.

“Awareness should be created about the benefits of source segregation. Not just the public, officials and conservancy workers should also be taught about source segregation. This will reduce a lot of solid waste. The biodegradable waste can be converted to manure and can be used in terrace gardening or can be sold to farmers for a minimum amount,” he says.

Darwin can be reached at 94441 12271.

2. <https://newstodaynet.com/index.php/2018/10/03/chennai-suburban-youth-runs-ngo-to-develop-environment/>



SELAIYUR LAKE GETS A FACELIFT

In the last two weekends, 25 residents came together to clean the water body

● **Madhumitha Viswanath**

Robust efforts are being undertaken by residents and various environmental groups to restore the Selaiyur Lake which has been infested with garbage, plastic waste and polluted by illegal discharge of raw sewage for close to a decade now.

The lake, spread across 100 acres, has been reduced in size over the last 10 years due to unchecked encroachments, said locals. Due to the government's inaction, the lake which is the sole water body in East Tambaram, hasn't been desilted for 15 years now, because of which excess water from the Selaiyur lake doesn't drain into the neighbouring Chitalapakkam and Sembakkam lakes.

Irked by the ignorance of authorities, locals have taken up the responsibility of restoring the lake in collaboration with multiple NGOs. Over the last two weekends close to 25 volunteers removed thorn bushes and overgrown vegetation which was providing a convenient environment for anti-social elements to carry out illegal activities. "Apartments and other encroachments located along the periphery let out untreated waste water directly into the lake. Also, sewage tankers from other localities dump sewage



The next round of clean-up will be done on December 22

into the lake. We realised that if the lake isn't restored to its former self, such activities will continue to occur," said Ra Ravi, organiser of NGO Makkal Pathai's south west Chennai wing.

Volunteers have submitted a letter to the Public Works Department to avail an earth-mover to

remove floating garbage and overgrown vegetation which will be done during the third session of the clean-up.

But, the biggest hurdle these groups face is the dearth of manpower as local residents of neighbouring areas of Tambaram, Selaiyur, Chitalapakkam are not aware of such activities. "After Christmas, students from Madras Christian College's NCC wing will join us to help with the restoration. But, we require more volunteers for these efforts to pay off," said Sethuraman, a member of Madipakkam river restoration group.

People, who are interested to volunteer for the upcoming session of Selaiyur Lake restoration to be held on December 22 from 6.30 am to 9.30 am, can contact Ra Ravi at 9087868796.

“
After hyacinths are removed, we will also plant saplings around the lake. Currently we are collaborating with NGOs like Sabari Green Garden, Eco India Society and Vidhaipadhu Vidhia.

—Nalan P, a volunteer from Alandur

3. <http://www.newindianexpress.com/cities/chennai/2018/dec/19/selaiyur-lake-gets-a-facelift-1913785.html>

HOME NEWS CHENNAI

Residents, NGOs take up restoration of Selaiyur lake

Published Jan 15, 2019 @ 03:30 AM

Updated Jan 15, 2019 @ 03:30 AM

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Experts said that the 177-acre Selaiyur lake has the potential to be a water resource for the entire locality. But it is one of the most neglected waterbodies on Chennai suburbs. It has been a dumping spot for garbage, raw sewage and solid waste for many years now.



Volunteers at work to give a facelift to the lake on Chennai suburbs

Chennai: However, the lake has been undergoing an overhaul for the past six weeks, thanks to a group of organisations like Eco Society of India, Makkal Padhai, Seva Barathi Tamil Nadu, Sabari Greens Foundation, etc. Talking to *DT Next*, Darwin Annadurai, founder of Eco Society of India, said, "Apart from the restoration process, we are also working towards sensitising and creating awareness among the public. In the first phase, we are clearing the garbage and undertaking its restoration. In the next phase, we want to strengthen the bunds and desilt the water body. The third phase will involve creating a walkway and turning it into a recreational spot."

The lake has been polluted with sewage water that is reaching it through the stormwater drains from Tambaram. The neglect has resulted in a large number of bushes in and around the lake.

The crowdfunded operation has seen resident welfare associations contributing to the equipment used like the JCBs. As many as 20 to 25 volunteers — residents and members of NGOs have been working on Saturdays and Sundays for the past few weeks.

Annadurai added that the residents in and around the locality comprise of mostly lower and middle-income groups. "We have been educating them to show how collective apathy has ruined a lake that has far more potential." In order to ensure that the lake is preserved for the future, the groups have decided to make it a boating spot. "The

idea would help us ensure that locals take ownership of its maintenance." The group is also planting native saplings around the lake.

However, for the subsequent phases, the groups will need the help of government departments. "The Public Works Department has to help us strengthen the bunds," he pointed out.

V Subramani, founder secretary, Sabari Green Foundation, which has been mobilising people's participation for the conservation of waterbodies across the State, observed, "Without their participation, it is extremely difficult to preserve waterbodies, as they can easily be encroached by anti-social elements that will take over the place."

4. <https://www.dtnext.in/News/City/2019/01/15033032/1102888/Residents-NGOs-take-up-restoration-of-Selaiyur-lake.vpf>

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Q and A: Drum beats to create awareness on ecosystem

Published: Jan 24, 2019 © 08:15 AM

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A performance of Parai Isai, one of the oldest art forms of Tamil Nadu, to educate people on the importance of preserving waterbodies will take place near Selaiyur Lake on Republic Day. Darwin Annadurai, 33, an environmentalist says the event will serve two major objectives.



Darwin Annadurai

Chennai: Why did you choose Parai Isai for conveying the message?
Parai is a traditional art form that has always been used as a mode of communication—be it about social evils or burning issues, it has been the easiest form of communication. Moreover, this would also be a great opportunity to promote a traditional art form in an urban place like Chennai.

What will the significance message be? Tell us a little about the group that will be performing.
The message will be about the drastic steps one needs to take to protect waterbodies like the lakes in the city. It will communicate to them that they should not dump trash, making such waterbodies an open urinal or toilet. Through the performance, they will be made to understand how their actions are hurting them and the environment. We are in talks with a few groups like the Alternative Media Centre and we will finalise it in a few days. The performance will last for an hour.

Do you think the current generation will understand the art form?
The drum beats will attract many residents living in Selaiyur and we definitely think the message will resonate with youngsters.

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- 5. https://www.dtnext.in/News/Citizen/2019/01/24060238/1103928/Q-and-A-Drum-beats-to-create-awareness-on-ecosystem.vpf

Saving waterbody

□ NGOs team up to clean Selaiyur lake



BALASUBRAMANI MUNIYANDI

Volunteers involved in Selaiyur Lake restoration.

With an objective to revive the largely-ignored Selaiyur lake, a group of volunteers in the neighbourhood, are conducting a clean-up campaign on the lake premises.

The initiative will see participation of members of Eco

Society India, Sabari Green Foundation, Makkal Paadhai, Vidhapadhu Vidhi, Nammal Mudiyum and various residents welfare associations.

According to sources, this lake is one of the primary reasons for the flooding of Chitlapakkam every monsoon.

While a cut and cover project at a cost of Rs 90 crore is being implemented to ensure that the surplus water is carried to the Sembakkam lake, without inundating the locality, residents allege that not much is done to desilt or clean the lake.

Speaking to *Tambram Talk*, Darwin Annadurai, one of the coordinators of the event, said, this has been taken up to make sure that local residents are aware of the importance of the waterbody.

'We are expecting the clean-up to involve more public participation. During the drive, we will also be creating awareness among locals about the importance of preserving and protecting the natural resource. Though officials can desilt the lake, it is up to the people to ensure that the waters are maintained,' he said.

Darwin further said that this clean-up drive is just the first step and they will continue to carry out the work every Sunday until the lake is completely restored and used for recreational purposes.

'We are also planning to hold talks with officials to ensure that the sewage let in here is either plugged or treated,' he added.

The clean-up drive will be carried out every week from 6.30 to 9.30 am and interested people can reach Darwin at 94441 12271.

CHENNAI

Do you want to volunteer at Selaiyur Lake?



T.S. ATUL SWAMINATHAN

JANUARY 25, 2019 15:03 IST
UPDATED: JANUARY 25, 2019 15:03 IST

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**'Bunds being cleared of trash, unwanted vegetation; one km covered so far'**

Selaiyur lake is receiving the benefits of a restoration effort. So far, for about one kilometre, the lake bunds have been cleared of unwanted vegetation and garbage, says Sabari Green Foundation (SGF), the voluntary organisation that is carrying out this exercise with permission from the Water Resources Department.

It may be noted that earlier, SGF had cleared the lake of *seemai karuvelam* (*Prosopis juliflora*) and garbage, in association Eco-Trust India, Makkal Padhai, Seva Bharathi and Sri Sarvamangala Nagar Residents Association.

The groups have issued a call for more volunteers to join them in this exercise (for volunteering, call V. Subramani, founder, SGF, at 9884026023).

The equipment to execute this work is being provided by Seva Bharathi and the Karur unit of Sabari Green Foundation.

In the second phase, the lake will be desilted, deepened and bunds strengthened, followed by plantation of saplings, says SGF which has formed a Whatsapp group 'Selaiyur Lake Rejuvenation Forum'.

R.A. Ravi, district coordinator, south Chennai, Makkal Padhai, says, "Sewage is being let into the lake; it is essential to set up a sewage treatment plant and let only treated water into it. Steps must be taken to create a walkers' path on the bunds."

Madipakkam lake gets a walkers' club

Residents of Madipakkam and visitors have created the 'Madipakkam Lake Walkers Club', which they believe will go a long way towards protecting the waterbody.

While thanking S. Aravind Ramesh, Sholinganallur MLA, for having allocated funds for installation of fences and extension of the walkers' path, members of the newly-formed Club have urged the Water Resources Department (WRD) to provide a 'No Objection Certificate' to Greater Chennai Corporation for strengthening the bunds and laying a walkers' pathway at Karthikeyapuram side of the lake.

An official of the Water Resources Department says, "On the Karthikeyapuram side, the lake has been desilted but steps must be taken to install a fence and lay pavements surrounding the bunds."

On the occasion, the Club thanked the State Highways Department for constructing a culvert on Medavakkam High Road, Madipakkam.

6. <https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/chennai/do-you-want-to-volunteer-at-selaiyur-lake/article26089231.ece>

NEWS TODAY

HOME CHENNAI TAMILNADU ENTERTAINMENT NATION EDIT POINTBLANK COLUMNS SPORTS WORLD

Eco Society India organises mass seed planting event in Chennai

Posted on September 18, 2019 by NT Bureau



Chennai: Eco Society India (ESI), organised a mass palmyra seed planting event at Agaramthen lake area.

Over 50 volunteers from Youth Red Cross wing of Easwari Engineering College, Porur, Cognizant Outreach, participated in the event.

Speaking to this paper, ESI member Darwin Annadurai said, "1,040 palm seeds were planted and 1,000 seed balls were also thrown along the lake bund."

"The volunteers enjoyed watching the scenic waterbody and had a memorable day. Thanks to our friends at Padappai village near Vandalur for helping us in collecting palm seeds," he said. The group has been involved in various social services activities including cleaning of Selaiyur lake and drawing awareness paintings.

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7. <https://newstodaynet.com/index.php/2019/09/18/eco-society-india-organises-mass-seed-planting-event-in-chennai/>
8. <https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-features/tp-downtown/ngo-residents-join-hands-to-revive-selaiyur-lake/article29792113.ece>

United they stand

□ Residents extend support to restore lake in neighbourhood



Participants during the consultation meeting of Selaiyur Lake Rejuvenation Committee.

| TALK TEAM |

Residents from various associations from Anandhapuram, Vinoba Nagar and Aadhi Nagar have extended their support for the Selaiyur lake cleaning and restoration.

The members confirmed their participating during the consultation meeting of

the Selaiyur Lake Rejuvenation Committee held 19 May at Subburayan Park, Anandhapuram. Following this, few members from various associations also took part in the restoration work 25 May.

Speaking to *Tambram Talk*, Eco Society of India founder and one of the coordinators of the group, Darwin Annadurai, said

several organisations have been involved in the cleaning and restoration of the waterbody for the past few weeks.

'As part of the process, there are plans to remove plastic waste, weeds and hyacinth from the waterbody, strengthen the lake bunds and plant new saplings. All these issues were discussed and public sup-

There are plans to remove plastic waste, weeds and hyacinth from the waterbody, strengthen the lake bunds and plant new saplings

port was also sought. Residents shared their views on how to carry forward the restoration,' he said.

'The residents said although they all wanted to protect the waterbody, they did not have the platform to do so. The members also agreed to cooperate with the volunteers in restoring the lake,' he added.

The clean up will happen every Saturday and Sunday at 6 am.

For details, contact 94441 12271/ 73055 85827.

Screening mesh put up in drains to prevent plastics entering Selaiyur lake

Published: Oct 23, 2019 @ 02:09 AM

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With garbage being dumped into Selaiyur lake despite complaints to the Public Works Department, a local NGO has put screening meshes at all the spots where the drains carry plastic waste into the lake.



Screening mesh placed at one of the spots

Chennai: "Selaiyur lake is one of the largest lakes here and a lot of work remains to be done to restore it and we decided to start with preventing garbage being let into it," said Darwin Annadurai, founder of Eco-Society India.

"We have been working on this project from last year and have been cleaning the lake for more 38 weeks, including a mass cleanup recently during which we collected more than 80 tonnes of trash. The lake cleanup is carried out regularly, and we also began to conduct street play to create awareness about keeping the water body clean. Soon, the residents here stopped dumping garbage in it," added Darwin.

To prevent the lake from being littered with plastic waste, the organization has come up with screening mesh fitted in front of drains before they let the water into water body. "It helps to clear the waste of plastics easily. Now, sewage also gets dumped into the lake and we must make alternative sewage treatment plants to purify the water. Only then, will the lake's water quality improve," Darwin said.

The NGO claimed that it has received permission from the PWD and municipality officials for this initiative. "We keep municipality officials updated about our activities. They have been supportive and during the cleanup drives, they send us trucks to collect the waste," said Santhosh Kumar M, a volunteer for Eco-Society India.

A few residents in the area claimed that there were no sanitary workers to collect their trash and so they had been disposing their waste in the lake. Now, however, the situation has changed. "Earlier, there was no door to door garbage collection system in place, so we had no choice but to dump the waste in the lake. But we stopped doing so after we noticed people cleaning it and trying to keep the lake free from trash. Now, we also stop other passers-by from throwing their garbage into Selaiyur lake," said Sankari K, a resident said.

When contacted, the municipality sanitary inspector, N Sivakumar said, "We have been monitoring the lake to check who dumps garbage there and are also involved in cleaning the water body every week. We think that the screening mesh will help in preventing garbage from flowing into the lake."

9. <https://www.dtnext.in/News/City/2019/10/23020919/1193560/Screening-mesh-put-up-in-drains-to-prevent-plastics-.vpf>

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HOME NEWS CHENNAI

Volunteers cheer as clean-up drives reduce waste in Selaiyur lake

Published: Nov 03, 2019 03:59 AM

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The consistent drives to clean-up Selaiyur lake is bearing fruit, with the volunteers finding much less garbage in the waterbody. Unlike earlier drives during which more than 100 bags of waste were removed from the lake, there were only seven bags of waste during clean-up on Saturday, said volunteers.



Volunteers cleaning the Selaiyur lake on Saturday

Chennai: Around 20 volunteers from Cognizant Outreach, Tata Consultancy Services, Eco Society India, residents and members of Makkal Pathai took part in the lake clean-up and restoration drive that entered 39th week on Saturday. According to the volunteers who are enthusiastic about the outcome, their efforts have paid off with 90 per cent of the lake being clean now.

"In the 33rd week, we collected around 85 sacks of plastics waste and 20 sacks of glass bottles from the lake besides removing water hyacinth. Now, we were surprised to see only 7 bags of waste being collected in the lake – thanks to the residents who curtailed dumping garbage in the lake after seeing our efforts every week," said Darwin Annadurai, founder of Eco Society India.

The volunteers said that the major problem during clean-up is when alcohol bottles lie on the lakebed and people littered the place at odd hours. "Residents urged us to cut trees, as miscreants came there to drink and litter the place. But it is against the principle of restoration," said Santhosh S, a volunteer.

Gandhimathi K, a resident of Selaiyur, recalled how the lake has been polluted for more than 15 years. "After repeated complaints, the officials cleared the shrubs, but did not clean it. Earlier, we used the lake for domestic use but stopped after it got polluted with sewage and industrial wastes. Now, after these volunteers took the initiative to clean the lake, there is a lot of improvement now."

When contacted, a senior official from the local body said, "We allowed the volunteers to clean the lake and keep us updated every week. We are also inspecting the lake often to act against those dumping garbage into the lake."

When contacted, the municipality sanitary inspector, N Sivakumar said, "We have been monitoring the lake to check who dumps garbage there and are also involved in cleaning the water body every week. We think that the screening mesh will help in preventing garbage from flowing into the lake."

10. <https://www.dnnext.in/News/City/2019/11/03035900/1195405/Volunteers-cheer-as-cleanup-drives-reduce-waste-in-.vpf>

Change through colour

● Naaz Ghani

Along with the sound of rustling leaves and chirping birds, the faint sound of chalk scratching against a wall fills the air. Volunteers stand in front of different walls, chalking out creative designs centred around awareness programmes like water scarcity and human-animal conflict.

The Eco Society Of India, in collaboration with the Inner Wheel Chennai Galaxy (IWCG) Club, organised a Paint for Awareness programme at the Government Children's Home For Girls in the Directorate of Social Defence in Kilpauk.

"This is a team effort to make the home meaningful and colourful again. We had also conducted a similar drive at the airport and had received a positive response," said Karthik Keyan, the organiser. While four volunteers mixed paint in around 30 tubs, the rest had begun filling in the chalked-out outlines on the walls.

One side of the administration building on the campus had

a huge mural of a hand holding a drop of water above the earth, as well as a colourful spattering of rainbows and butterflies. A 14-year-old girl was seen filling in a part of a drawing with blue paint. "It's a nice outing on a Sunday morning for the kids. Both my daughters paint and this is a good way they can help out," said Sheetal Ram, member of IWCG.

A few girls from the children's home volunteered too. "We need to save the elephants," said Rajini, as she painted two elephants facing each other, on the wall.

Excitement and chatter filled the air as the 40-odd volunteers discussed ideas, designs and colours. Some laughed while painting the cartoon character Bugs Bunny, while others sketched an intricate bird outside the classrooms. Some residents of the children's home peeked shyly at the volunteers at work, mustering up courage to ask for a paintbrush.

By 11 am, most of the walls looked as colourful, bright and lively as the trees, birds and flowers around the children's home.



The wall painting event was held in Kilpauk ● D Sampathkumar



SRM Institute of Technology
Examination Centre
Tankulathur, Palur
University

● Veena M

The second Sangeetha Gana Sabha is presenting a game of musical chairs. All the participants are from the same teams — The Bhairavi, the

Antakshya child in each song of color, raja, Papaners. The game Subha made the si feet. In one of them unconams and th asked to gue sing any tu audience al ed in the ar trying to gr



Awareness is key

◆ NGO conveys social messages through paintings



|BALASUBRAMANI
MUNIYANDI|

The outer walls of Sembakkam Municipality, have got a fresh new look with paintings of social messages done by a group of volunteers.

Gayathri Sekar, a resident of Balaji Nagar, Madambakkam, and a core member of the Eco Society of India, the NGO who organised the event, said, the initiative was taken to create more awareness among the public.

'I have been taking part in various activities in the neighbourhood for the past few years. My father being an ex-serviceman, I too wanted to serve the society in every possi-

ble way. While we have been campaigning about water conservation, it was disheartening to see that the waterbodies which we cleaned become polluted again due the activities of a few residents. This is when I thought that awareness was the key to sustain the clean-up activity. But I did not know how to go about it,' she said.

She further said, the idea of creating awareness using wall paintings, struck her when she was waiting to get work done at the Municipality.

'I saw a lot of people visiting the office. So I thought this would be the right place to teach. I conveyed my idea to the officials, who gave me the go-ahead. I also contacted a few NGOs in the locality



'I saw a lot of people visiting the Municipality office. So I thought this would be the right place to teach'

who were also more than willing to participate, following which we began our work,' she said.

She added that several volunteers too took part in the painting activity, which was done during weekends.

'The Municipality officials were supportive and even members of the public, who frequented the place appreciated our effort. Most importantly, the message we wanted to convey reached a larger section of the people. Due to the impact the initiative created, I have been approached by a few schools to paint

their walls. We have also sought permission to paint the outer walls of the Madambakkam Dhenupureeswarar Temple and are awaiting their response,' she noted.

Gayathri also stated that they would next work on the walls of the Government High School in Madambakkam.

'We are yet to finalise the dates, once that is done, we will begin work. Anyone who is willing to participate in the event can contact. We will help them in painting,' she said.

Gayathri can be reached at 9444112271.

11. <https://www.newindianexpress.com/cities/chennai/2019/nov/04/change-through-colour-2056566.amp>

Citizen Connect: Unscientifically converted landfill pollutes Agaramthen ryots' nearest source of irrigation

Published: Dec 21, 2019 @ 07:15 AM

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A A

Residents of Agaramthen village and nearby areas off Vandalur-Kelambakkam Road are put to suffer as the garbage is being dumped close to Agaramthen lake.



Stream flowing into the lake runs close to the landfill and carries toxins from the garbage

Chennai: Darwin Annadurai, the founder of Eco Society India, said that the municipalities such as Tambaram, Pallavaram and Sembakkam are dumping their garbage in a landfill in Venkatamangalam, which is hardly 100 feet away from Agaramthen lake.

"Toxins from dumped garbage flows into the lake, which is an irrigation source for the farmers in the area. In just a few years, the lake has been severely polluted," Darwin Annadurai, who works in Tambaram, said.

According to residents, the municipalities started dumping garbage in Venkatamangalam around four years ago and the quality of the lake water started to deteriorate after that. A stream flowing into the lake runs close to the landfill and carries toxins from the garbage.

Darwin added that the government had constructed an incineration plant at the spot, but the facility is not functioning. "Apart from polluting the lake, the landfill is also polluting groundwater. Landfills should be created scientifically so that the toxic could not enter the ground and contaminate water. There is no scientific approach before converting Venkatamangalam as a landfill," he said.

He pointed out that if the government had followed scientific procedures and formed geothermal layer before converting the area into a landfill, severe pollution could have been prevented.

Meanwhile, some residents in the locality alleged that the municipality workers resort to burning of garbage during summer, when the garbage is dry.

"Due to the smoke, we could not breathe when it was set on fire. Along with smoke, toxic gases entered our respiratory system, affecting our health," Kumar, a resident said.

Farmers, who are dependent on Agaramthen lake also expressed concerns that the pollution affects agriculture. They also pointed out that the pollution in the area also affects vegetation of the locality.

Meanwhile, it is learnt that the Public Works Department (PWD) has undertaken the restoration of Agaramthen lake by desilting and deepening the lake. However, PWD officials could not be contacted for comments.

If you notice any civic issues unattended by authorities, please write to us with a photograph at citizen.dtnext@dt.co.in

12. <https://www.dtnext.in/News/Citizen/2019/12/21035311/1205054/Citizen-Connect-Unscientifically-converted-landfill-.vpf>

TANBARAM TALK 19-25 MAY 2019

Selaiyur lake committee meeting 19 May

| TALK TEAM |

A consultation meeting of the Selaiyur Lake Rejuvenation Committee will be held 19 May from 4 to 6 pm at the Subburayan Park in Anandhapuram.



A press release said several organisations have been involved in the cleaning and restoration of the lake for the past 20 weeks.

‘As part of the restoration works, there are plans to remove the plastic waste, unnecessary plants and hyacinth from the water body, strengthening of lake bunds and planting new saplings. The meeting will discuss all these issues and also seek the support of the public for this cause,’ the release said.

It further said residents are requested to take part in the meeting and share their views and ideas about carrying out the work.

For details, contact 9444112271 / 7305585827.



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சேலையூர் ஏரியை சீரமைக்க வரும், மீம் தேதி வாங்க...!

சென்னை, ஜூலை 4-

'தாம்பரம் அருகே உள்ள சேலையூர் ஏரியை சீரமைக்கும் பணி, வரும், மீம் தேதி துவங்க உள்ளது. இதில், பொது மக்களும், பொதுநல சங்கங்களும் பங்கேற்கலாம்' என, தன்னார்வ அமைப்புகள் அழைப்பு விடுத்துள்ளன.

பருவ மழை ஏமாற்றியதால், சென்னைக்கு குடிநீர் வழங்கும் ஏரிகள் வறண்டு விட்டன. நீர் நிலைகள் அழிப்பு, ஆக்கிரமிப்பு உள்ளிட்ட காரணங்களால், நிலத்தடி நீரும் கிடைக்காமல், தண்ணீருக்கு கடும் தட்டுப்பாடு ஏற்பட்டுள்ளது.

இதனால், நிலத்தடி நீர் வளத்தை பாதுகாக்கும் வகையில், 'களமிறங்குவோம் நமக்கு நாமே' என, பொது மக்கள், பொதுநல சங்கங்கள், நீர் நிலைகளை தூர் வார வேண்டும் என, நம் நாளிதழில், அறிவிப்பு வெளியிட்டதோடு, விழிப்புணர்வு செய்திகளும் வெளியிடப்படுகின்றன.

இதையடுத்து, சென்னை மட்டுமின்றி, தமிழகம் முழுவதும், நீர்நிலைகளை தூர் வாரி சீரமைக்கும் பணியில், பொதுமக்கள் ஆர்வமுடன் களமிறங்கி உள்ளனர்.

இந்நிலையில், சென்னை, தாம்பரம் அருகே உள்ள, சேலையூர் ஏரியை சீரமைக்க, பல்வேறு தன்னார்வ அமைப்புகள் ஒன்றுசேர்ந்துள்ளன.

இது குறித்து, 'எகோ சொசைட்டி ஆப் இந்தியா' என்ற அமைப்பின்



நிர்வாகி, டார்வின் கூறியதாவது:

சேலையூர் ஏரி சீரமைப்புக்கான முதற்கட்ட பணி, வரும், மீம் தேதி, சனிக்கிழமை நடக்க உள்ளது. இதில், 10க்கும் மேற்பட்ட பொதுநல அமைப்புகள், சங்கங்கள் பங்கேற்க உள்ளன. சீரமைக்க தேவையான உதவிப் பொருட்களை வழங்க, பலரும் முன் வந்துள்ளனர்.

'களமிறங்குவோம் நமக்கு நாமே' என, ஆர்வமுள்ள யார் வேண்டுமானாலும், சீரமைப்பில் பங்கேற்கலாம். இதற்கு, வரும், மீம் தேதி காலை, 6:30 மணிக்கு, சேலையூர், ஆதி நகர் பஸ் நிறுத்தம் அருகில், ஒன்று கூடுவோம். வாரம் தோறும், விடுமுறை நாட்களில், இந்தப் பணி தொடரும்.

இவ்வாறு, அவர் கூறினார்.

மேலும், விபரங்கள் தேவைப்படுவோர், உதவி செய்ய விரும்புவோர், 94441 12271 என்ற மொபைல் போன் எண்ணில், தொடர்பு கொள்ளலாம்.

சேலையூர் ஏரி சீரமைப்பு பணி தன்னார்வ அமைப்பினர் ஆர்வம்

சேலையூர், ஜூலை 7-

தாம்பரம் அடுத்த, சேலையூர் ஏரியில், பல்வேறு தன்னார்வ அமைப்புகள் சேர்ந்து, 31வது வாரமாக, நேற்று சீரமைப்பு பணியில் ஈடுபட்டன. கடந்த ஆண்டு, பருவமழை பெய்யாததால், சென்னைக்கு குடிநீர் வழங்கும் ஏரிகளில் வறண்டு விட்டன. நிகழ்வு நேரம் வந்தறிவிட்டது.

இதனால், நிகழ்வு நீர் வளத்தை பாதுகாக்கும் வகையில், 'கனம்நகரவோம் நமக்கு தாயே' என, பொது மக்கள், பொது நலச்சங்கங்கள், நீர் நிலைகளை ஐஸ் வார வலியுறுத்தி, நம் தாய்நிலை, ஆறிவிட்ட வெள்ளிட்டதோடு, வீழிப்புணர்வு செய்திகளும் வெளியிடப் படுகின்றன.

இந்நிலையில், தாம்பரம் நகராட்சிக்குட்பட்ட, சேலையூர் ஏரியை சீரமைக்க, 'எனோ சொசைட்டி ஆப் இந்தியா' என்ற, தன்னார்வ அமைப்பு திட்டமிட்டது.

ஆர்வமுள்ள இளைஞர்கள், தன்னார்வ அமைப்புகள், சி சீரமைப்பு பணியில் பங்கேற்கும் என, அந்த அமைப்பின் சார்பில் அறிவிக்கப்பட்டது.

இதன்படி, நேற்று காலை, சேலையூர் ஏரியை சீரமைக்கும் பணியில், எனோ சொசைட்டி ஆப் இந்தியா, சப் பகவை அறக்கட்டளை, மக்கள் பாதுகாப்பு, சேலையூர் தமிழ்நாடு, 260 இளைஞர்கள் குழு ஆகிய அமைப்புகள் சேர்ந்து, சி சீரமைப்பு பணியில் ஈடுபட்டன. இந்த அமைப்புகளில், கல்கத்தா மேற்பட்டோர், ஏரியில் இருந்த குப்பை, பீனாம்புக மரங்களும் கழிவுகளை அகற்றி, சுத்தம் செய்தனர்.

காலை, 10:00 மணி வரை, சீரமைப்பு பணி நடந்தது. இது குறித்து, அந்த அமைப்பின் சேர்ந்தவர்கள் கூறியதாவது: தொடர்ந்து, 31வது வாரமாக, சேலையூர் ஏரியை சுத்தம் செய்கிறோம். மூடும் வொரு வாரமும், மூடும்வொரு பகுதியில் உட்கள குப்பை, கழிவுகளை அகற்றி வருகிறோம்.

தங்கள் எடுக்கும் குப்பையை, சாக்கு குட்டையில் கட்டி வைத்து விடுவோம். அவற்றை நகராட்சியினர் எடுத்துக் செய்வர்.

ஏரியில், சுகதி அதிகமாக உட்களதால், சுத்தம் மட்டுமே செய்கிறோம். தன்னார்வ வற்றியவுடன், பொதுமக்களின் துணைபுடன் அனுமதி பெற்று, தூர் வாளுவோம். இவ்வாறு, அவர்கள் கூறினர்.



Thinamalar article about Selaiyur Lake on 7th July 2019.

மாநகராட்சி பள்ளி சுற்றுச்சுவரை ஒவியத்தால் அழகுப்படுத்திய இளைஞர்கள்

சென்னை, 14 -
மாநகராட்சி பள்ளி சுற்றுச்சுவரை ஒவியத்தால் அழகுப்படுத்திய இளைஞர்கள். இளைஞர்கள் பள்ளி சுற்றுச்சுவரை அழகுப்படுத்தியது பற்றி செய்தி வெளியாகியது.

மாநகராட்சி பள்ளி சுற்றுச்சுவரை அழகுப்படுத்திய இளைஞர்கள். இளைஞர்கள் பள்ளி சுற்றுச்சுவரை அழகுப்படுத்தியது பற்றி செய்தி வெளியாகியது.

மாநகராட்சி பள்ளி சுற்றுச்சுவரை அழகுப்படுத்திய இளைஞர்கள். இளைஞர்கள் பள்ளி சுற்றுச்சுவரை அழகுப்படுத்தியது பற்றி செய்தி வெளியாகியது.

மாநகராட்சி பள்ளி சுற்றுச்சுவரை அழகுப்படுத்திய இளைஞர்கள். இளைஞர்கள் பள்ளி சுற்றுச்சுவரை அழகுப்படுத்தியது பற்றி செய்தி வெளியாகியது.



பள்ளி தடுப்பு கவச, குறிவந்தல் அழகுப்படுத்தி இளைஞர்கள். இடம்: மாநகராட்சி பள்ளி, சென்னை.



தடகளம்: ச
மெடரிக பள்

சென்னை மாநகராட்சி பள்ளி சுற்றுச்சுவரை அழகுப்படுத்திய இளைஞர்கள். இளைஞர்கள் பள்ளி சுற்றுச்சுவரை அழகுப்படுத்தியது பற்றி செய்தி வெளியாகியது.

இவை வரு



TREE PLANTATION PROGRAMME

| TALK TEAM |

Students of Women's Christian College, Chennai, funded a mass tree plantation programme on Gandhi Jayanthi.

Those belonging to the Young Indians Club of WCC took up this green initiative by pooling in funds for over 200 native saplings and planted the same at Agaramthen lake area in an effort to conserve native trees and protect the biodiversity in the region.

Employees of IT firms like Fisher Chennai

Engineering Center also raised funds for over 100 saplings and jointly participated in the afforestation event, that was organised by Eco Society India.

Over 80 volunteers from WCC, Cognizant Outreach and Eco Society India participated in the event.

Some of the species that were planted included *Ficus racemosa*, *Mahua longifolia*, *Calophyllum inophyllum*, *Ficus benghalensis*, *Terminalia arjuna*, *Swietenia mahagoni*.

13. <https://www.vikatan.com/news/miscellaneous/chennai-youngsters-team-holiday-painting-awareness>

Electronic media Reports on Eco Society India activities



1. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YGwjAOMccgg> Nammal Mudiyum programme, Puthiya Thalaimurai TV on 15/12/2018



Win TV News coverage on Selaiyur lake Restoration on 9th April 2019

159 views · Apr 13, 2019

5 0 SHARE SAVE ...

Eco Society India

2. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NyEVBPP-vZ0> News on our activity in Selaiyur lake telecasted in Win TV 1st coverage



#Puthiyathalaimurai #PuthiyathalaimuraiLive #PuthiyathalaimuraiLiveNews

Nammal Mudiyum: ஏரிகளை தூர்வார கரம்கோர்த்த மாணவர்கள் | 22/06/2019

3,210 views · Jun 22, 2019

120 3 SHARE SAVE ...

3. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ctXYox9N2NA&t=11s> Nammal mudiyum programme in Puthiya Thalaimurai TV on 22/06/19



WinTV coverage of 1st Public Consultation on Selaiyur Lake

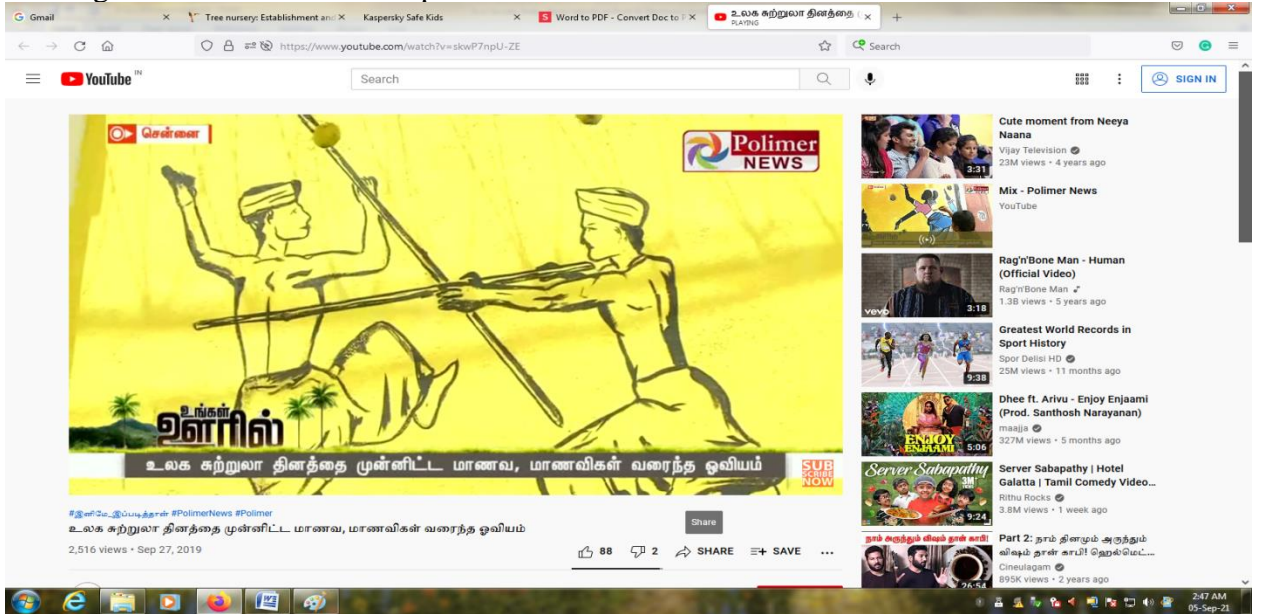
21 views · May 25, 2019

2 0 SHARE SAVE ...

4. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XUCE5_S7vNA Murasu Tv News coverage on public consultation held at Selaiyur Anandhapuram



5. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NPAGq39b_CU&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=IwAR1ii3rQIknK1o0WqpskMW11rwrpsVgEzsnC3dqe1H6GIvCVLQoH9bJ9a0 Win TV Coverage of 2nd Oct 2019 mass plantation



6. <https://youtu.be/skwP7npU-ZE> Polimer news coverage on Airport event



#Politics #DMK #ADMK

இவ்ளோ திறமைய எங்கப்பா ஒளிச்சி வச்சிருந்தீங்க...

287 views · Sep 29, 2019

👍 13 🗨️ 0 ➦ SHARE ≡+ SAVE ...

7. <https://youtu.be/wPyBeJotgG8> win TV news coverage on Airport event



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Nammal Mudiyum: பிளாஸ்டிக் ஒழிப்பு உள்ளிட்ட பல்வேறு நலப்பணிகள்! | Plastic | 23/11/2019

1,077 views · Nov 23, 2019

👍 33 🗨️ 1 ➦ SHARE ≡+ SAVE ...

8. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xzW_ttPiphk Nammla mudiyum plastic pollution awarens at Koyambedu Market telecasted on 23rd November 2019.

2020 onwards

Print Media Reports on Eco Society India activities

The screenshot shows a news article on the DT Next website. The article is titled "Selaiyur lake water unfit for drinking due to sewage discharge" and is dated February 11, 2020. The article includes a photograph of the lake and a quote from Darwin Annadurai, a volunteer at Eco Society of India, stating that the water is unfit for drinking due to a high level of organic matter. The article also mentions that the Water Resources Department (WRD) is planning to install a sewage treatment plant (STP) to stop sewage from entering the lake.

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'Selaiyur lake water unfit for drinking due to sewage discharge'

Published: Feb 11, 2020 @ 12:52 AM

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The quality of water in the Selaiyur lake has been found unfit for usage since it contains a high level of organic matter due to discharge of raw sewage into the waterbody, results of water sample tests taken by an NGO have revealed.



Chennai: "We have sent the samples for water quality after the monsoon season. Biological oxygen demand (BOD5) value is higher than the tolerance value of 3mg/l for class C surface water in 6 out of 7 samples. The results indicate a high level of organic matter enrichment due to the discharge of raw sewage into the lake," said Darwin Annadurai, volunteer at Eco Society of India. "The government should make an alternative way to discharge sewage, since, due to this, the groundwater in the locality is also contaminated," he added.

Surface water in natural environments contains a small quantity of organic compounds. But in an urbanised centre like in Selaiyur, heavy inflow of sewage brings in loads of nutrients to the water bodies which is consumed by the micro organisms present in the water utilises dissolved oxygen in the water, activists pointed. The demand for oxygen increases, leading to mass fish deaths in the waterbody and these lakes will become like Adyar and Cooum. It is a common problem faced in urban areas.

"There was some suggestions to pour some chemicals to purify the lake dirty water. But it is effective and feasible only for small ponds. Not effective or feasible for such a large water body. Moreover, it is not a permanent solution or the best option," said Saravanan K, another volunteer.

The Water Resources Department (WRD) said that they will soon set up a sewage treatment plant (STP) in the lake. A senior WRD official said, "We are in process in restoring the water bodies in the city. As part of the project, we will be installing STP to stop sewage entering into the lake."

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1. <https://www.dtnext.in/News/City/2020/02/11005234/1214439/Selaiyur-lake-water-unfit-for-drinking-due-to-sewage-.vpf>

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Deer, birds find home in Selaiyur lake after restoration

Published: 03:22 AM, 05 Sep 2021

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The Selaiyur lake area have begun seeing many spotted deer and migratory birds after the restoration works, claimed local residents. The volunteers have sent a proposal to the PWD to set up a sewage treatment plant (STP) near the waterbody.



Chennai: During cyclone Vardah in 2016, the compound wall of the Air Force Station collapsed and the spotted deer moved out of its premises. "A few deer moved near Selaiyur as there are many trees and shrubs there. We started removing the neem karuvelem (prosopis juliflora) trees so that the native shrubs and trees that are edible for the herbivores can grow better. Now, there are more deer and migratory birds than usual, which is why we did not remove the natural vegetation along the bund," said Darwin Annadurai, a volunteer of Eco Society of India.

The volunteers have also planted more saplings near the lake so that the animals can have adequate space during the summer. "There are many saplings that are edible for the deer. They are moving closer to the public residing in the locality," said Srikanth K, another volunteer.

The residents are planning to form a lake protection committee involving youngsters and residents' welfare association at Selaiyur. "Soon, our team would send a proposal to the PWD for setting up STP at the waterbody to control sewage and plastic pollution affecting the lake. Also, we would study the silt deposition and submit a proposal for desilting and using the silt to strengthen the lake bund," said Darwin.

Deer at the Selaiyur lake

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2. <https://www.dtnext.in/News/City/2020/03/03032230/1218116/Deer-birds-find-home-in-Selaiyur-lake-after-restoration.vpf>

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NGO seeks fund to help Narikuravas in city

Published: 4:09 PM 12, 2020 @ 05:05 AM

Eco-society India, a citybased NGO, is distributing dry ration kit to Narikurava families residing in South Chennai. But, they claim that they are unable to distribute relief to all since the daily wage labourers, who are starving are too many and they have been unable to help all of them owing to paucity of funds.



Chennai: The Narikuravas live a hand to mouth existence by selling bead products in public places like the beach. But now, after the lockdown, they are reportedly starving and are at a loss about whom to approach for help.

"At present we are distributing dry ration kit worth Rs 550 each to 30 such families. But as we do not have enough funds, there is a situation that one kit is being shared by two families. There are some Narikuravas who asked for help, which we were able to extend. But still, there are many daily wage labourers who are starving without any help," said Darwin Annadurai, a volunteer at Eco-society India.

The NGO also claimed that their volunteers are trying to identify daily wage labourers in the city who need help and that they have identified such workers in Pallavaram, Kotturpuram, Poonamallee, and Minjur.

"The products which we have distributed will be sufficient to last at least for a week. We are raising funds to supply more such kits to daily wage workers. Also, we have asked the Corporates to extend funds to feed such families. We are also in the process of identifying people in the city and we need more volunteers," said R Praveen a volunteer with the NGO.

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Air, water quality get better as vehicles stay off roads and industries remain closed

Published: Apr 10, 2020 @ 07:45 AM by Swadha Radhakrishnan, M Chitharth

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Ever since the State-imposed lockdown came into effect, there has been a huge drop in pollution levels. However, pollution levels at North Chennai, which incidentally has recorded the highest number of COVID cases in the city, continues to be dismal owing to the continuous movement of vehicles.



Chennai: According to Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board (TNPCB) data, most parts of the city have recorded lower levels of the harmful Nitrogen Dioxide (PM 2.5), which is released by vehicles and power plants. The pollution level of PM 2.5 in Perungudi was 18 microgram/m³, Koyambedu 23 microgram/m³ and Gumilipoondi 36 microgram/m³. This is much below the permissible level of 60 microgram/m³.

Royapuram, with 40 positive COVID cases, is the worst affected area in the city. But the pollution level continues to be higher than the permissible limits as the PM 2.5 in the area is 67 microgram/m³, which is more than the permissible limit. This is being attributed to the continuous movement of vehicles. However, Manali recorded the highest of 92 microgram/m³.

TNPCB officials are enthused over the improvement in the air quality since the lockdown began.

"The air quality level in the city is within the permissible limits and has been rated from moderate to good," said a senior official of TNPCB.

However, Shweta Narayan, an activist, pointed out, "In industrial areas like Manali, refineries and power plants are still operating and hence there has been no dip in the pollution levels there."

Even water bodies in the city seem to be clean without the effluents from industries.

"Usually rivers recover fast once the polluted discharges are stopped. But this is only temporary. If the city gets rain during the lockdown, the water quality in the rivers could get a lot better," said Darvin Annadural, an activist.

A Public Works Department (PWD) official said that they have cleared garbage and debris dumped near Cooum and Buckingham Canal.

"The river restoration work was expected to be completed within three months and setting up the sewage treatment plant (STP) was the final stage," said S Kavitha, Assistant Executive Engineer, PWD.

Pollution drop alone won't help asthma patients

Asthma and other respiratory illness have been reducing among the people due to the nationwide lockdown. Experts feel that outdoor pollution, one of the main triggers of asthma, has been reduced as automobiles are off the road. But there are still some worrying factors.

Respiratory and pulmonology experts in the city said that dogs, cats, plants and scents, too, can trigger asthma," said Dr A Mahalingam, Director, Institute of Thoracic Medicine, Chennai.

Stating that asthma patients are not more prone to COVID-19, the director said, "Anyone can be affected by the virus. But patients with asthma, hypertension, diabetes or chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) will have a difficult time recovering from the virus, if infected, as their immunity is low."

Dr Anantha Subramanian, a leading pulmonologist at Kauvery Hospital, said, "Lockdown has reduced the pollution level and we are witnessing a lesser number of patients. This does not mean that pollution is the only trigger for asthma."

Dusting turns easier, say homemakers

Decrease of vehicular traffic on the road is not only a blessing for the local flora and fauna but also for homemakers and residents, who say that the reduced air pollution and dust have led to less need for dusting in and around homes.

"Usually I dust the house thrice a week. However, now, with reduced traffic, I only need to dust the house maybe once or twice a week," said Lalitha, a homemaker in Mysore.

However, this does not offer them much respite as many homemakers, dependent on house help to keep their homes clean, are now forced to take up these tasks as well. According to Vinay, who stays in a rented apartment in Nungambakam, these additional burdens can be difficult to navigate while working from home.

Yet residents are averse to letting their guard down. "I sweep and mop up the house daily, as opposed to cleaning on alternate days. While no one comes home, I am stepping out for groceries, and so there is always a risk. If we are expected to wash our hands regularly and wear masks, then we should also make sure our surroundings are clean to ensure there is no chance for an outbreak," said Vinay.

4. <https://www.dtnext.in/News/City/2020/04/10053426/1224292/Air-water-quality-get-better-as-vehicles-stay-off-vpf>

The screenshot shows a YouTube video player. The video content depicts a group of people, including children and adults, participating in an awareness painting activity. They are standing around a table with a banner that reads "ECO SOCIETY INDIA". The background features a wall with colorful drawings and a sign that says "Government". A "WIN NEWS" logo is visible in the top right corner of the video frame. The video player interface includes a search bar, a play button, a progress bar showing 0:07 / 1:36, and a URL bar displaying "https://youtube/winnewdia". Below the video, there are social media sharing options and a view count of 60 views.

5. <https://youtu.be/icqnHTDGSSs>

Municipality continues to dump waste near Chitlapakkam lake

Published: May 21, 2020 @ 08:43 AM

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Owing to the lockdown, residents near Chitlapakkam lake have stopped dumping waste near the water body. But the residents and activists are irked by the municipality still dumping mounds of garbage near the lake. Residents of the area said that the staff have covered the waste and plastic with mud and that is blocking the flow of water.



Garbage dumped by the lake before lockdown (file photo)

Channel: A portion of the lake is being used as a dumping ground for the waste collected from Chitlapakkam municipality. "After filing many complaints regarding the issue, the authorities cleared the waste. Still, a huge amount is buried in the area," said Darwin Annadurai, an activist.

He pointed out that the area of the waterbody has been reduced due to this indiscriminate dumping. "If the solid waste is removed completely, the lake can be expanded like a few years ago. We have witnessed municipality vehicle dumping the waste," said Darwin.

The residents said that Chitlapakkam panchayat doesn't have a proper infrastructure to handle solid waste and thus they collect all kinds of waste together and dump it by the lake.

"The lake was cleaned a few months ago after filing frequent complaints. The officials should

take an effort to find who is involved in dumping the waste here. The groundwater is already polluted and the government has not started the desilting work, which was expected to begin in 2020," said Pandian, a resident of Chitlapakkam.

When contacted, a senior municipality official said, "We were clearing the waste from the lake and dumping the same at a composed yard at Korattur. But of late, we have not been able to clear it because of the lockdown. After lockdown, it would be cleared completely."

- 6. <https://www.dtnext.in/News/City/2020/05/20054319/1231123/Municipality-continues-to-dump-waste-near-Chitlapakkam-vpf>



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Coastal clean-ups alone not enough, opine experts

Published: Feb 25, 2020 @ 04:45 AM
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The Olive Ridley season is in full swing and reports have already emerged stating that the number of their deaths has gone down while the number of juveniles has increased. However, plastic waste on the beach can be a choking hazard for these nesting mothers.



Chennai: In an effort to preserve the shoreline ecosystem not only for the animals but also themselves, locals have taken to beach clean-ups en masse.

According to Derwin Annadural, founder and MD of Eco Society Alliance, their beach clean-ups usually yield nearly 1.7 tonnes of waste. "Single-use plastic continues to be a menace, despite the state-wide ban. Not only beach-goers but also vendors are a cause for waste accumulation. However, over the past few months, many more people have volunteered to clean-up the beaches," he said.

This sentiment is a result of many citizens associating their beaches with a local sense of pride. Another reason for the increased interest in beach clean-ups is due to Chennai's rising status as a travel destination due to its coastline.

Volunteers of Eco Society Alliance during a clean-up in city

Carrying forward this love for the city is a group of youngsters from five schools across the city. RecyclePro, a non-profit run by Class 11 students, held plogging events to promote waste collection in the public conscience.

"Youngsters like Greta Thunberg are leading the change all over the world. We need to fix the wrongs of the previous generation. We hope that people see us youngsters working so hard and try to take care of their surroundings better," said Shiv Chhabria, founder.

Plogging is a recent trend in beach clean-ups, as a move to merge fitness trends and environmental protection into one.

The main issue that these individuals face is apathy, from both locals as well as the floating population that visit the beaches. "Some residents still refuse to follow basic garbage disposal rules, especially at public spaces. Visitors from outside the State also are not aware of the waste disposal facilities available in the city," said Annadural.

However, physical clean-ups are not sustainable on their own. Chhabria and Annadural agreed that more awareness must be spread on keeping beaches clean and conduct awareness programmes and camps through their respective organisations.

- 7. <https://www.dtnext.in/News/City/2020/02/25044815/1216930/Coastal-cleanups-alone-not-enough-opine-experts.vpf>

CHENNAI

COVID-19: Koyambedu market, shops to be closed on Sunday in view of nation-wide people's curfew



SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

CHENNAI, MARCH 20, 2020 12:44 IST

UPDATED: MARCH 20, 2020 14:03 IST

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The vegetable, fruits and flowers wholesale market complex, along with other shops -- except for pharmacies -- will be closed on Sunday

The Koyambedu wholesale market complex will remain closed on Sunday in view of the nation-wide people's curfew announced by the Prime Minister on Thursday night, as a measure to combat COVID-19.

About 4,500 shops in the vegetable, fruits and flowers market will be closed between Saturday midnight and Sunday night. The food grains market too, will not function. S.Srinivasan, president, Chennai Fruits Commission Agents Association said the market generally received about 800 lorries daily bringing in produce from different parts of the country. They have been informed to refrain from visiting the market on Sunday.

Normally, business hours begin from 1 a.m. in the wholesale market. "We are holding awareness programmes at the market with the Market Management Committee authorities and distributing soaps and masks. We have also sought screening facilities for COVID-19 at the market next week," he said.

Shops to remain shut

The Tamil Nadu Vanigar Sangakalin Peramaippu, has asked traders in the State and city to support the Janata Curfew on Sunday.


"All shops, except pharmacies, will be shut down on Sunday. There are over 21 lakhs in the State and 4 lakhs shops in the city," said Ve Govindrarajalu, general secretary of the Peramaippu.

He said that residents can stock up on essential commodities such as vegetables and fruits on Saturday. He has also requested traders to applaud at 5 pm on March 22 to appreciate the selfless work of essential services personnel.

Similarly, Care Earth Trust, a bio-diversity research organisation, has also decided to call off a series of events planned this month in Thazambur. Jayshree Vencatesan, its managing trustee, said "Several programmes such as tree planting and bird and insect watching that also involved schoolchildren were planned. Now, we have called off World Water Day programmes to avoid congregations till April 15."


Eco Society of India based in Tambaram has also decided to stop volunteering activities till March 31. Darwin Annadurai, its founder, said, some activities like watering saplings in Agaramthen lake were carried out till March 14. The number of volunteers has dropped by 70% in the past few weeks, he said.

8. <https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/chennai/covid-19-koyambedu-market-to-be-closed-on-sunday-in-view-of-nation-wide-peoples-curfew/article31116373.ece>



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Agaramthen lake turns a garbage dump yard

Published: Jan 21, 2020 @ 04:47 AM

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Green warriors of Tambaram have planted saplings near Agaramthen lake in order to bring it back to its pristine glory. They complain that the residents are dumping garbage into the lake even after much awareness drive. Even the officials are not taking any action to clean the lake, they rue.



The polluted Agaramthen lake near Tambaram

Chennai: Green warriors of Tambaram have planted saplings near Agaramthen lake in order to bring it back to its pristine glory. They complain that the residents are dumping garbage into the lake even after much awareness drive. Even the officials are not taking any action to clean the lake, they rue.

"Earlier, there were only Prosopis juliflora trees (Karuvellam tree) near the lake for almost 2.5 km. Following frequent complaints, the Public Works Department (PWD) cleared the trees to keep the surroundings clean. Thereafter, we identified a place near the lake for planting native trees. The first time we planted the saplings, we asked the residents to look after them. But when we returned after two weeks, we found the plants dead. So, this time we ourselves are maintaining the plants and are visiting the place every week," said Darwin Annadurai, a volunteer of Eco-Society India.

He said the lake was once used for drinking and agricultural purposes. But after the locals started using borewells, they forgot the lake and started dumping garbage.

"Earlier, sewage was getting mixed with the lake water and the place was even worse. Only after repeated complaints, the officials acted. Now, residents have started dumping plastic bags in the lake, not realising the damage it causes to groundwater. We have also conducted awareness drive on the need to protect the lake. But, it seems, no one bothers," said Vignesh, another volunteer.

Residents said they were using the water from the lake for domestic purpose. But after it got polluted with sewage and garbage they stopped using it. They also said there has been no dearth of inspection by officials. But no action came forth in protecting the precious waterbody.

When contacted, a senior PWD official said, "Volunteers are doing their bit. Soon we will start cleaning and desilting the lake."

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9. <https://www.dtnext.in/News/City/2020/01/21044754/1210481/Agaramthen-lake-turns-a-garbage-dump-yard.vpf>



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Around the Anganwadi in 77 hours, NGO gives a vibrant makeover!

Welcome to Pallikaranai Anganwadi, which has received a facelift, thanks to the NGO, Eco Society India.



Published: 01st December 2020 05:45 AM | Last Updated: 01st December 2020 03:20 PM



Corporation Anganwadi at Pallikaranai given a facelift by Eco Society India | Express

By OMIJASVIN M D
Express News Service

CHENNAI: The walls which were once dirty, now look colourful. Torn posters have been replaced by a mural of a young girl sitting on a grassland reading a book with colourful butterflies all around, as hues of artistic touch bring the old building to life.

Welcome to Pallikaranai Anganwadi, which has received a facelift, thanks to the NGO, Eco Society India. Working for 77 hours in five continuous days, a team of artists from the NGO, has given new life to the building located near Thamarai Kulam, with an aim to inspire children and make them feel good visiting such anganwadis. Founder of the NGO, Darwin Annadurai, said the initiative of message-oriented artwork was taken up to instill joy of reading in children.

"We decided to do this in anganwadis as children come here. It is also good for them to get an exposure to mural work at a young age," Annadurai said, adding that this will be expanded to more Corporation anganwadis in the city.

"We decided to do this in anganwadis as children come here. It is also good for them to get an exposure to mural work at a young age," Annadurai said, adding that this will be expanded to more Corporation anganwadis in the city.

The girl in the mural is painted in black and white, while her surrounding is colorful. One of the artists who did the painting, Vicky Raj, said, "The girl has been painted in this manner to signify that when she enters the angwadi, it is just the beginning. The surroundings are in colour to signify the knowledge she will pick up."

Another painting of a young girl watering plants, is to encourage children to take care of nature, Raj added. Other artists involved in the painting include Ramkumar Mohanarangan, Prabhakaran Appudu, Karpagam and Deepika Gunasekaran.

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10. <https://www.newindianexpress.com/cities/chennai/2020/dec/01/around-the-anganwadi-in-77-hours-ngo-gives-a-vibrant-makeover-2230197.html>

CHENNAI

Water recharging structures sought



SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

CHENNAI, DECEMBER 25, 2020 01:12 IST
UPDATED: DECEMBER 25, 2020 01:12 IST

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Residents and voluntary organisations in southern suburbs are seeking more water recharging structures instead of a storm-water drain network to mitigate the pollution of waterbodies.

Residents and NGOs are making efforts to prevent pollution of the Selaiyur and Sembakkam lakes. In most localities, the storm-water drain network often carry polluted water to the lakes. Residents of Karthik Avenue, Chitlapakkam, had lodged complaints with the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board on the release of sewage into the Sembakkam lake and the dumping of plastic waste.

Eco Society India, an NGO involved in environment conservation, has been sensitising residents of the localities around Selaiyur lake to the importance of source segregation and greywater recycling as part of its efforts at restoring the lake.

The organisation has been creating awareness of waste recycling in apartment complexes in areas such as Anandapuram and Aadhi Nagar, Selaiyur. "Our efforts, along with those of the Tambaram municipality, have helped in reducing garbage littering around the lake. We are now discussing methods to handle liquid waste to stop the entry of raw sewage into the lake," said Darwin Annadurai, founder, Eco Society India.

Instead of laying impermeable road surfaces and constructing storm-water drains, there must be more recharge structures along the road. "We must have constructed wetlands near lakes using vegetation, like reed grass, to remove pollutants from the storm-water run-off. This would curb sewage pollution. A comprehensive environment management plan, involving different government agencies, is essential," he added.

CHENNAI

Redrawing Chennai's lake restoration map



T.S. ATUL SWAMINATHAN

SEPTEMBER 07, 2019 17:43 IST
UPDATED: SEPTEMBER 07, 2019 17:43 IST

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New groups that are concerned about the state of waterbodies, big and small, in their neighbourhoods are now giving a fillip to conservation efforts

With the guidance of Sabari Green, a voluntary organisation engaged in tree-planting and lake-cleaning initiatives, residents welfare associations in Vengaivasal have come together to restore Vengaivasal Sitheri lake.

The members of these associations and the NGO have together formed what is called "Vengaivasal Sitheri Lake Rejuvenation Forum".

They Forum is now engaged in lake-cleaning activities. The restoration is being sustained by community funding. The work to restore the lake was situated 10 days ago.

Lake in Urapakkam

Residents of this region have formed a lake conservation group in association with Lions Club of Ponmanam and a TV channel to restore Urapakkam-Karanai-Puducherry Lake

The work on clearing the lake of garbage stretched on for months. Work on desilting and deepening the waterbody as well as formation and strengthening of bunds were then carried out. The inlet and outlet channels of the lake have also been cleared of blocks. At present, work on planting native trees is going on at the lake.

Pond in Pozhichalur

Started recently by a few residents of Pozhichalur, this pond-cleaning forum focusses on a pond located near the Pozhichalur bus terminus.

A member of the Pozhichalur Pond Cleaning Forum says, "Followed clearing of trash from the pond, steps will be taken to desilt and deepen the pond and form and strengthen bunds. Besides, we will also be cleaning the inlet and the outlet channels of the pond. We look for volunteers as well as technical team to help us to restore the pond." The members of the Forum have also urged the State Government to release funds to restore the pond.

Green Agaramthen

Eco Society India, a non-profit organisation that has been formed with the objective of working to protect urban eco-systems, is planting native tree saplings in an area near the Agaramthen Lake, and plans to start greening the bunds of the waterbody.

A. Darwin, an environmental activist and managing trustee of Eco Society India, says, "The bunds on the lake needs green cover; having trees on the bunds will strengthen them and also increase biodiversity."

Focus on Sozhipoigai

Sozhipoinear Kulam Malai is a pond found near Mamallapuram bus Stop on East Coast Road. With the guidance of Sabari Green Foundation, a voluntary organisation engaged in tree-planting and lake-cleaning initiatives, local community conservation is now clearing the pond of garbage.

N. M. Magesh Kumar, founder, The Crew, says, "At present, work on planting native tree saplings is going on at Adhanur pond, near Urapakkam. After the trash is cleared from a pond, and native tree saplings planted on the bunds, we undertake sapling maintenance work every weekend.

This work involves clearing plastics from the fences for saplings and also replacing damaged fences, if any.

12. <https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/chennai/redrawing-chennais-lake-restoration-map/article29361870.ece>

Separate water ministry's need of hour in state

T. SUDHEESH | DC
CHENNAI, DEC. 1

Though Chennai and its surrounding districts including Chengalpattu, Kancheepuram and Tiruvallur, which regularly have water crisis during summer, received 20.30 per cent excess rainfall during the last two months, lapped up by cyclone Nivar, the water management in the state remains an uphill task as it is looked after by various departments.

While the Greater Chennai Corporation (GCC) manages ponds and tanks in the city, the public works department (PWD), which controls lakes, Metro Water, is in charge of the water bodies that provide drinking water. They also work in coordination with many other departments to maintain water bodies and marshlands.

Though the demand for setting up a single agency to manage water resources under a minister like the water resource department in Kerala is a long-standing one, it has now become the need of the hour, as almost all water bodies in the city are brimming with water as a result of cyclone Nivar.

It may be recalled that on July 30 a division bench of the Madras high court comprising M.M. Sundresh and R Hemalatha, hearing a plea of S Kalaiyarasi, ordered that there has to be a separate ministry in the government to deal with encroachments, preservation of water bodies and

Green activists see red in Pallikaranai dredging move

DC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, DEC. 1

The state government's reported move to dredge the Pallikaranai marshland has become a cause of concern among green activists.

Green activist Jeo Damini of Poovulagin Nanbargal, an environmental organization, said the government was planning to deepen the marshland in Pallikaranai in the pretext of water conservation. If the marshland is dredged, it will get rid of rich biodiversity in the area.

The statement by the Chief Minister on Monday is clear that the government was planning to deepen the area. The

replenishing natural resources.

According to the data, the state has got as many as 39,000 tanks. Of these, around 10,000 tanks are being controlled by the PWD. Of 10,000 tanks, about 5,000 tanks are system tanks fed by riverine channels. The rest 5,000 tanks are enriched by rainfall. The rest of the waterbodies, like tanks and Oorani, are maintained by various departments including railways, universities and local bodies.

Mr. Senthoo Pari, president, Exnora International, says reviving and

government claims that the move is inevitable as the surrounding areas have become flood-prone. Deepening the marsh will help to improve the water carrying capacity. But it would have an adverse impact on the biodiversity. It is not clear where the dredged sand would be transported to and if quantity concrete mixture would be put in the area. We are concerned about the proposal, he said.

Darwin Annadurai Duraiswamy, founder of Eco India, said that converting the ecosystem of Pallikaranai marsh is suicidal because it acts as a natural eco barrier. It absorbs entire chemicals and pesticides the city produces and prevents

maintaining water bodies will help mitigate the impact of climate change.

'It is important for a city like Chennai to have maintenance and management of the Adyar river and Buckingham Canal', he said.

V. Rama Rao, chairman, Sabari Green Foundation, pointed out that many departments including railways and defence often neglected the conservation of water bodies as it was not their primary duty. Hence, a separate ministry is the need of the hour to take control of water bodies and give their best

attention for improvement of water bodies in the state', he said. Dr Shekhar Raghavan, Chennai's Rain Man, who founded NGO Rain Centre, also agreed with the concept of a new ministry for water management. "We had studied this matter post 2015 flood and suggested the government for the creation of a 'rainwater department' to manage the water predominantly received through the seasonal rainfall. But it has so far not become a reality. It is time for the government to think about seriously," he said.

Coming together for a cause

◆ Various NGOs join hands for the uplift of Vengambakkam Government School



Volunteers during the wall painting event at Vengambakkam Government School.

SPOT CORRESPONDENT

Volunteers of different organisations took part in a wall painting event at the Vengambakkam Government School.

Speaking about the

event, Darwin Annadurai of Ecosociety of India said the members drew six colourful images on the compound walls of the school, depicting the importance of going to school, role of education in the uplift of children irrespective of financial

'The toilet is constructed at a cost of Rs 4 lakh as the existing toilets were damaged and not usable. Napkin incinerator is provided in the girls toilet'

status, gender equality and rainwater harvesting.

He said the wall painting initiative was taken up as the newly constructed toilet at the school was planned to be

inaugurated in the last week of December.

The toilet was constructed by Rotary Club of Madras Temple City and Mangaladeepam NGO.

"We wanted to beautify the compound wall to motivate the students. The toilet is constructed at

a cost of Rs 4 lakh as the existing toilets were damaged and not usable.

Napkin incinerator is provided in the girls toilet," he added. Apart from the volunteers, school headmistress N Jaya and Balasubramaniam of Mangaladeepam was also present.

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CHENNAI

Voluntary groups adapting to new normal

K. Lakshmi

CHENNAI, APRIL 20, 2021 00:38 IST
UPDATED: APRIL 20, 2021 00:38 IST

SHARE ARTICLE

**THE HINDU
DATED 20TH
APRIL 2021**

Pandemic curbs hit weekend environmental activities, such as lake cleaning and tree plantation

Several voluntary organisations and citizens groups engaged in environmental conservation are adopting alternative measures due to the severity of the pandemic.

Weekend volunteering for various environmental causes, be it lake cleaning, tree plantation or awareness drives through wall paintings have been affected because of COVID-19 mitigation restrictions.

Finding sufficient number of volunteers has become a challenge, say environmental activists. The new restrictions, including lockdown on Sundays, will delay the work.

S. Sekaran, secretary of Korattur Aeri Padukappu Makkal Iyakkam, a citizens' group dedicated to lake protection, said, "We recently launched 'Save Korattur lake', a 52-week campaign. We removed 300 liquor and plastic bottles and 100 sacks of garbage during a drive on a Sunday alone. We want to clean up to 6 km of the lake's periphery to help more people use the area without hassles."

However, the number of volunteers, particularly from educational institutions, has dropped by 50%. The citizens' group is managing the activities with teams from other voluntary organisations, he added.

A few organisations plan to use machinery for clearing vegetation.

S. Sameer of the Social Work Team Trust said there had been a setback in weekend activities as students were not participating now. "We have limited the number of volunteers to 10-20 for maintaining trees planted around the lake. This would mean a delay in work. But we have to manage with available resources," he said.

A few organisations, particularly in the southern suburbs, have stopped regular weekend volunteering activities owing to the pandemic.

Darwin Annadurai, founder, Eco Society India, said, "Participation has reduced considerably over the past few months as priorities have changed. Regular environmental activities have been stopped in Agaramthen and Selaiyur lakes. We seek only a few volunteers to maintain trees planted along the waterbodies." "The absence of campaigns has aggravated issues like garbage dumping along roads in areas, including Pallavaram and Chromepet." As an alternative, plans are afoot to employ people or provide remuneration for activities like wall painting and maintenance of saplings planted through fundraisers, he said.

Officials of the Water Resources Department said requests for volunteering activities were not encouraged.

"We have advised not to carry out any activities around Red Hills lake on Sundays this month. Volunteers are involved in tree maintenance efforts on other days. We monitor if they follow COVID-19 safety protocols," said an official.

THE HINDU
Our code of editorial values

1. <https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/chennai/voluntary-groups-adapting-to-new-normal/article34362488.ece>

City volunteers help daily wagers with food, essential items to tide over pandemic woes

■ SWEDHA RADHAKRISHNAN

CHENNAI: As the city gears up for another stringent lockdown, with thousands who test positive for COVID19 everyday struggling for beds and oxygen, all attention is focused on those who are falling prey to the virus while the daily wagers in the city go hungry for yet another week. In an attempt to alleviate some of their concerns, a group of volunteers have stepped forward to help those in need by distributing food and essentials.

Darwin Annadurai, one of the



A volunteer gives a packet of essentials to a labourer

volunteers, said, "There are so many people giving out food and essentials to COVID infected patients, but a large population of casual labourers are still going hungry. Hence we decided to help the daily wagers by providing essential items to them during the pandemic because these people don't have a permanent source of income. Also, they don't have family cards and are unable to get things from ration shops."

According to the volunteers working with the labourers, a vast majority of them borrowed a huge amount of money from others to stay afloat during the first wave and have

since been unable to repay them leading to further economic woes.

Another volunteer, Balakrishnan from Velachery, pointed out that they had distributed food packets to daily wagers during the first wave but their numbers have increased now. "Unlike last year, the number of daily wagers who lost their jobs has increased and they cannot afford to buy or make food. So, every day we distribute food packets and twice a week we give them essential items too. If they fall sick we take them to the nearby clinic and tend to their medical care. So far none in my care has developed COVID symptoms," he said.

2. <https://epaper.dtnext.in/Home/MShareArticle?OrgId=2454ef75278&imageview=1>

'Wash' project to bring Narikuravas to mainstream

T. SUDHEESH | DC
CHENNAI, APRIL 14

As many as 400 families of Narikuravas residing behind Pallavaram market in the largest such settlement of this nomadic community in the city, are set to get a new lease of life with a new water, sanitation and hygiene (Wash) project.

The multi-million rupee project, for which the baseline survey started earlier this month, is being implemented by the Real Charitable Trust, a city-based NGO in association with United Way Chennai. S. Lawrence, founder of the trust, said that the community would be given access to enough exclusive toilets and reverse osmosis (RO) plants through a year-long special focus.

"As part of the project, a committee comprising government officials, people's representatives and community leaders has been constituted. The project will be implemented with the advice and guidance of the committee. We are now focussing to form



exclusive Self Help Groups (SHGs) among young members so that they would be taught income-earning skill works. Apart from that, we will teach them hygiene etiquette and rainwater harvesting techniques. The project will be completed by April next year," he said. Narikuravas, who speak an unclassified language with a script called Vaagri Booli, used to live a hand to mouth existence by selling bead products in public places like the beach and markets. Their life turned has miserable

since the Covid19 pandemic and subsequent lockdowns in the city that forced them to become rag-pickers and animal hunters.

The gipsy tribe, who are traditional animal worshippers, are also practitioners of distinct rituals and customs including sami-mootai (God's bundle), an inherited bundle of cloth dipped in animal blood by their ancestors.

The community got Scheduled Tribes (ST) status back in 2016 after a four and a half decade long constitutional battle to change their status from Most

Backward Community (MBC). This came after the Loku Committee recommended their inclusion in the list of ST. In 2015, the Minister of State Por Radhakrishnan, pointed out in a letter to the Tribal Affairs Minister that the Narikuravar Community was 'nomadic, extremely poor and one of the most vulnerable communities' in Tamil Nadu and meagre 0.02 percent of them are graduates.

Though the community has received 9 exclusive toilets for each gender under Swachh Bharat Scheme they have been facing a lot of issues from the local people as well. Radhika, a local Narikurava community leader, says the toilets built for the community are now being used by the general public. "Our women are scared to use these toilets as the local miscreants are making them uncomfortable. Though we are given ST status, we are still being treated by authorities as MBC to get rid of benefits of welfare schemes," she says.

Darwin Annadurai, a social activist who works with the community says they are discriminated against by the authorities as the Tamil people don't recognise them and their culture. The community always felt detached from mainstream of society. Many of them actually refuse to send their children to schools as they feel that they don't get equal treatment at schools," he said.

The Deccan Chronicle Dated 15th April 2021

Build channel connecting lakes to prevent flooding in Chitlapakkam, urge activists

Published: Jul 04, 2021 05:30 AM

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Eco Society India, an NGO that took part in the cleaning of Selaiyur Lake, has urged the State government to construct a surplus channel and operationalise sluice gates to prevent flooding in Chitlapakkam.



Representative Image

Chennai: In a representation to the chief engineer of the Water Resources department, Darwin Annadurai, founder and managing trustee of Eco Society India, pointed out that with the help of several organisations, residents welfare associations and employees of IT firms, regular cleanup drives were conducted in the lake to clear unwanted vegetation along the bund.

"During 2019-2020, we have removed 12 tonnes of garbage dumped by the residents in the lakeshore. Due to our sustained outreach campaigns, people have stopped dumping on the lake bunds and along the stormwater drains," Darwin Annadurai added.

The representation added that the Selaiyur Lake has four sluice gates along the bund and one surplus weir on the northern side. As the sluice gates in the lake bund are not operated, the

entire surplus water of the lake drains in Chitlapakkam leading to flooding, causing extensive damage to public property in Babu Street, Thirumagal Nagar, Pradeep Avenue and Shanthy Avenue in downstream Chitlapakkam. "A decade ago, when the Selaiyur lake water was used for irrigation, the sluice gates were regularly operated and a natural stream was connecting the Selaiyur Lake with Thiruvanchery lake. We request to construct a channel, with rainwater infiltration pits connecting both the lakes and operationalise the sluice gates whenever necessary to prevent flooding in Chitlapakkam," he urged.

- <https://www.dtnext.in/News/TopNews/2021/07/04013934/1304709/Build-channel-connecting-lakes-to-prevent-flooding-.vpf>

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Divide and rule

◆ Eco Society India and Bisleri carry awareness campaign about 'plastic segregation'

VOICE CREW

Eco Society India in collaboration with Bisleri had recently launched an awareness campaign to "neatly segregate" plastics.

Justina from Bisleri and Darwin Annadurai from Eco Society India explained the various benefits of "neatly segregating" plastics devoid of food particles so that it can be sent for recycling and prevent it from ending up in the landfills and polluting our Environment.

Justina said that this programme is a part of Bisleri's "Bottles for Change" Programme initiated across the country in which authorised bulk waste collectors are deputed to every housing society to collect all types of neatly segregated plastics and send it for recycling.

Housing societies can generate revenue out of the plastics generated in



their premises by sending it for recycling and help to preserve a clean and healthy environment, Darwin said.

Darwin said that the programme was held at S&S

Seram High Rise apartments in Kovilambakkam and added that similar programmes will be held in Tambaram as well.

Darwin said Eco-Society

India is a registered non-profit, non political, non religious, voluntary and professional citizen group founded to sensitise and train the communities to protect and preserve the urban ecosystems.

To achieve the objectives we organise discussions, exhibitions, seminars, workshops, conferences, training, study circles, cultural, educational and philosophical forum in view of integral and inclusive development of the nation,' he added.

For further details contact 9444112271.

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Biofencing work done at Agaramthen lake

VOICE CREW

The 49th week landscape restoration activity at Agaramthen Lake area was carried out on 13 February from 7am to 11am.

A press release said biofencing maintenance was carried out during the event in



which a number of volunteers took part.

For further details contact: 9444112271.

City volunteers help daily wagers with food, essential items to tide over pandemic woes

■ SWEDHA RADHAKRISHNAN

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எந்த பகுதியிலும் மரக்கன்று நட தொடர்பு கொள்ளலாம்



■ மரக்கன்று நடும் பணியில் ஈடுபட்ட 'ஈகோ சொசைட்டி இந்தியா' குழுவினர். இடம்: செம்பாக்கம்.

'ஈகோ சொசைட்டி இந்தியா' அமைப்பு அறிவிப்பு

- நமது திருப் குழு -

"நம்மீழகத்தில் எந்த பகுதியிலும் மரக்கன்றுகள் நடவேண்டுமானாலும், எங்களை தொடர்பு கொள்ளலாம்" என, 'ஈகோ சொசைட்டி இந்தியா' என்ற தன்னார்வ அமைப்பு அறிவித்துள்ளது. இயற்கையை பாதுகாப்பதில் முக்கியத்துவம் குறித்து, மக்களுக்கு புரிதலை ஏற்படுத்தும் பணியையும், மரக்கன்றுகள் நடுவதன், அத்தந்த பகுதியில் தன்னார்வர்கள் நிவமித்து, அவற்றை பராமரிக்கும் பணியையும் செய்து வருகிறது.

4,000 பணை விதைகள்

இது குறித்து, அத்த அமைப்பின் நிவமிதி, திடவாக்கத்தை சேர்த்த கற்றிக்குழல் அறிவியல் பொறியாளர் ஏ.டார்லின், 35, கூழ்பதாவது: ஈகோ சொசைட்டி இந்தியா அமைப்பை 2018ல் துவங்கினார். தாமதம் தொகுதிக்குட்பட்ட பகுதிகளில் மட்டும் மரக்கன்றுகள் நடவு செய்யப்பட்டு வருகின்றன. கடந்த 2018 முதல் இது

'கவசம் அறக்கட்டளை' அசத்தல்

சென்னையில், தேளம்பேட்டை மண்டலம், 112வது வார்டு, கோடம்பாக்கம் சிவன் கோவில் தெற்கு தெரு ஆசிய பகுதிகளில், 'கவசம் அறக்கட்டளை' சார்பில், பாடம், வேப்பிலை, அரசு மரம் உள்ளிட்ட மரக்கன்றுகள் நேற்று நமர் தினம் நடப்பட்டன. தொடர்ந்து அண்ணா நகர், அரும்பாக்கம், அமைத்தகரை உள்ளிட்ட பல்வேறு பகுதிகளிலும், மரக்கன்றுகளை நடுவது மட்டுமல்லாமல், அவற்றை தொடர்ந்து பராமரிக்கும் பணியையும் அறக்கட்டளையைச் சேர்த்த ஆர்வலர்கள் செய்து வருகின்றனர்.

வரை, 2,000 மரக்கன்றுகள் மற்றும் 4,000 பணை விதைகள், என் அமைப்பு சார்பில் நடவு செய்யப் பட்டுள்ளன.

இதில், 1,000 மரக்கன்றுகள் அகரம் தென் ஏரிக்கரையில் நடப்பட்டது. பெரும்பாலும், பல்லுளிர் பெருக்கத்திற்கு ஏதுவாக இருக்கக்கூடிய மரக்கன்றுகளையே நடுகிறோம்.

அத்தி, நாவல், பனை, இலுப்பை, புன்னை, சச்சு மரக்கன்றுகளை தேர்வு செய்து நட்டு வருகிறோம். தாமதம் தொகுதியில், தேவையான அளவு மரக்கன்றுகளை நடவு

பட்டுள்ளனர். எங்கள் அமைப்பில் நடப்பட்ட மரக்கன்றுகளின் நிலையை ஆய்வு செய்து வருகின்றனர். 60 முதல் 100 தன்னார்வர்கள் உள்ளனர்.

அவர்கள், வாரம் ஒரு முறை சேலூர், மரக்கன்றுகளின் நிலையை ஆய்வு செய்து வருகின்றனர்.

மரக்கன்றுகள் நட்டும் பணிகளுடன் சேர்த்து, கவிராவியம், விழிப்புணர்வு ஒலியம் வரைவு உள்ளிட்ட பணிகளையும், எங்கள் அமைப்பினர் செய்து வருகின்றனர்.

நீர்நிலைகள் மற்றும் கடற்கரைகளை தூய்மைப்படுத்தும் பணிகளையும் செய்து வருகிறோம்.

சேலையூர் மற்றும் அகரம் தென் ஏரிகளில் குவிந்திருந்த கழிவுகளும், கடற்கரையில் இருந்த குப்பை கழிவுகளும், எங்கள் தன்னார்வர்களால் பலமுறை அகற்றப் பட்டுள்ளன.

கண்காணிப்பு
அகரம் தென் பகுதியில் உள்ள, 'கோவில்



■ கோடம்பாக்கம் சிவன் கோவில் தெற்கு தெருவில், 'கவசம் அறக்கட்டளை' சார்பில் நடப்பட்ட மரக்கன்று.

காடுகளை பாதுகாக்கும் பணிகளிலும் ஈடுபட்டு உள்ளோம். அங்குள்ள மூலிகைகளை பாதுகாக்கும் விதமாக, சேர்த்தெடுக்க மாக தன்னார்வர்களை நியமித்து, அங்கு குப்பை மற்றும் மனித கழிவுகள் கொட்டப் படாதபடி கண்காணித்து வருகிறோம். தமிழகத்தில் எங்கு மரக்கன்றுகள் நட வேண்டும் என்றாலும், 94441 12271 என்ற, மொபைல் போர்ன் எண்ணில், தொடர்பு கொள்ளலாம்.

Chennai gets uplift with artwork

T. SUDHEESH | DC
CHENNAI, SEPT. 9

For the last few weeks, Chennai is dotted with eye-catching artworks in various zones every day thanks to some voluntary groups, non-government organisations (NGOs) and individuals who have joined hands with the state government's prestigious Singara Chennai 2.0 project.

The beautification works, launched by Chennai Smart City Limited (CSCL) under the guidance of Greater Chennai Corporation, have picked up momentum in the last few days across 15 zones with the support of around 40 sponsors and artists. Now each zone gets at least two artworks every day.

Whether it is a space on an overbridge or public building or a compound wall, the artists sponsored by these voluntary organisations as well as CSCL are



An art work created by Eco Society India at Basant Nagar.

making the art works memorable and giving the city a magnificent look.

A CSCL official said: "In the first stage, we were unable to find a proper design that is affordable and adaptable to the acquired spaces. The artists conceived out-of-the-box ideas and designs. But most of them did not fit into our budget. So we decided to

find sponsors. On that mission, we met various organisations, commercial establishments and clubs to get the project going. Now most of the art works being done are sponsored by various organisations. We have directly roped in seven artists to get the work done. In many cases, the sponsors appoint their own artists." It may be recalled that

these artworks got inspiration from the multiwall paintings portrayed by a group of 10 artists in association with St+art India Foundation in Kannagi Nagar, Ezhil Nagar and Tsunami Nagar in the city in March last year. They undertook 15 works at a cost of ₹40 lakh allocated by the GCC. "Art is a tool of social uplift," says Darwin Annadurai, an environmental scientist with Eco Society India which spearheaded two artworks at Basant Nagar.

"It's the life of people in the city that is reflected in most of the artworks. Our work was based on the life of fisher folks in a designated area. It was done in association with the Inner Wheel Club. We found two compound walls in areas and convinced the artists about the idea. We finished the work and opened it to the public on the occasion

of Madras Day celebration. The civic body is providing full support," he said.

Uma Shivakumar, a city-based NGO, said they created an artwork on crematorium at Anna Nagar under Singara Chennai project after they were approached by the GCC. "We are hoping to do more work in cooperation with educational institutions and other organisations. We give emphasis on social awareness rather than beautification through our works as art is a tool of social empowerment", she said.

"We hope the initiative will attract more like-minded people and well-wishers in the city in the upcoming days. We are trying to rope in more residents and residents welfare associations and artists to this grand project in order to add more colours to city ambience", said a CSCL official.

PRINCE FREDERICK

When parents pop out of sight, an infant has trouble believing they have not disappeared forever. As its grow in days, the infant totters on to an understanding of “object permanence”, learning not to equate “popping out of sight” with “going out of existence”.

The problem arises when infants that have grown into adults fail to unlearn the lesson of object permanence in certain situations. If something – and someone – keeps popping out of sight far too often, and pops back in only after a dreadfully long passage of time, it may actually be disappearing from the scene. Not with a bang, but with a series of inscrutable budes.

Applying this logic to wildlife conservation, wildlife ecologists can sometimes get overly optimistic about a species’ resilience, believing it exists in the same encouraging numbers, ignoring growing evidence that it is checking out of many of its known habitats. Talking of a specific case, there is evidence that it is time to such shed misplaced optimism about the Indian courser (*cursorius coromandelicus*).

The Indian courser is found across India in patches of suitable habitats. Though still described “widespread” and of “least concern”, the bird puts in rare appearances in many of its known habitats. In Chennai and surrounding districts, Indian courser’s occurrence data is patchy, being occasionally reported from lake beds (when they had become dry), the most notable example being Siruthavoor.

With the Indian courser, ornithologist V. Santharam employs unminced language one wants to hear more often.

“The Indian Courser is one of those species likely to

UNCOMMON RESIDENT

The Indian courser: On uncertain ground

Did you know that in certain months of the year, this bird would find at the Pallikaranai Marsh just the kind of habitat it preferred?



become hugely uncommon and disappear in the next few decades. It has already become uncommon in many areas. Because, open areas are places people think should not be left open.” The Indian courser is viewed as a ground bird, because it largely sticks to *terra firma* even when it perceives a threat to its safety. Its “fleeing” behaviour shows this bird bets on its wings as well as its legs to carry it to safety – more on the latter. The Indian courser belongs to the category of birds that make short work of nest-building. The nest is just a scrape in the ground.

Its preference for open, dry land is what puts the bird at a huge disadvantage. Because, it is just the kind of earth that turns the eyes of

“development”, eyes that view fallow lands as waiting to be “put to good use”.

“These birds like open lands, open dry river beds, lake beds and open stony dry country,” points out Santharam. “The Indian Courser is receding because it prefers open areas which are sparsely populated and less disturbed.”

Field notes

On the subject of how the Indian courser is being squeezed out of its habitats, the ornithologist presents a snapshot of a pre-monsoonal Pallikaranai from the 1980s.

“We have seen the species in Pallikaranai Marsh. Those days, you would be able to spot it right from the road (which would later go on to become the Pallavaram-Tho-

riapakkam 200-foot Radial Road.”

The natural water-flow movement of the Marsh existing at that time provided a conducive environment for the Indian courser during certain months of the year. “In those days (just as now), the Pallikaranai area would be inundated up to the road during the monsoon. But the difference is that once the rains stopped, the water would start receding. There would be these areas along the road, for at least up to 300 metres on both sides, that would be covered with slight grass in most parts and be slushy in some parts. Overall, it would offer a more dry kind of habitat for months. When the water was down – as I have

“The Indian courser is one of the most neglected and least studied birds.”

seen in the months of September and October before the monsoon arrived – the Oriental pratincoles would come. So would the Indian coursers,” explains Santharam.

He then goes on to present the prevailing situation. “But now, there is water logging through the year, changing the quality of the habitat. Reeds are found right next to the road. In those days,

The Indian courser, a bird of dry open land.
PHOTO: RAMA NEELAMEGAM

reeds would be seen only half a kilometre away. When the section got developed, the character of the place changed. The water would not flow that freely and started stagnating and reeds also started coming up close to the road.”

Studies needed

“The Indian courser is one of the most neglected and least studied birds,” says S Balachandran, deputy director at the BHNS Regional Migration Study Centre in Point Calimere. “It is not a common bird, and over 40 years of field studies, primarily across Tamil Nadu, I must have had only 10 sightings of the Indian Courser. In the Tirunelveli side, in a dry area, I had seen one or two Indian coursers. Other of the rare sightings I have had of this species include the ones at Kaliveli and Kodiakara. Going by the Tamil Nadu experience, the bird is scarcely found. As the bird prefers

neither wetlands nor forests, and is a species of dry open land, surveying it can be a challenge. Being found in barren and dry grassland, this bird suffers directly from development activities. It is affected just as the yellow-wattled lapwing is, which is also a bird of dry open land.” While according due importance to the role of citizen-science efforts to document sightings of species like the Indian Courser, Balachandran punctuates the necessity of carrying out a sustained study of the Indian courser.

(*Uncommon Resident*’ discusses resident birds of Chennai and surrounding districts that are not easily seen, and may be dwindling in numbers)

Invasive fish species at lake in southern suburbs

Waterbody conservation organisation reports presence of African catfish in Agaramthen lake

T.S. ATUL SWAMINATHAN

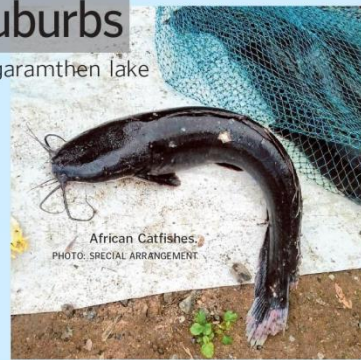
On July 5, members of the voluntary organisation Eco Society India discovered the presence of the African catfish species – the African sharp-tooth catfish (*Clarias gariepinus*) – in Agaramthen lake, near Selaiyur. Darwin Annadurai, managing trustee, Eco Society India, underlines the dele-

rious effect this invasive species can have on the lake ecosystem.

“A voracious feeder, this catfish can gobble up native fish species, water snakes and also hatchlings of water birds. This species is a prolific breeder.” T. D. Babu, a former principal scientist and research scholar, Central Institute of Brackishwater Aquaculture (CIBA) says: “The Indian government has banned

breeding, farming, transporting and sale of this fish as it is an invasive species. As it grows and breeds faster, it can dominate a waterbody, subduing native species. Doing away with this species is a challenge, as they can survive in any adverse conditions. As they are air breathers, they can survive in sludge with low dissolved oxygen levels.” Annadurai adds, “The Public Works Depart-

ment should take steps to remove the catfish from this lake at the earliest. Besides, fishermen should be advised not to rear it. The waste from the poultry, including, the wings of the chicken, intestines, and heads are fed to these species. Rearing it in an artificial pond or spotted in waterbodies will contaminate the quality of the ground-water, render a foul odour and make it non-potable.”



African Catfishes.
PHOTO: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

<https://www.thehindu.com/society/a-lake-sustains-local-residents-during-lockdowns/article38183308.ece>

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A lake sustains local residents during lockdowns

 **Prince Frederick**

JANUARY 08, 2022 07:51 IST
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Helpline number to address wetland-related complaints

Tamil Nadu State Wetland Authority and Eco Society India organise event

To commemorate World Wetland Day (February 2), Tamil Nadu State Wetland Authority joined hands with Eco Society India, an NGO that has been working to restore the Selaiyur Lake. Forty students from SRM Eswari Engineering College joined as volunteers. Member secretary Deepak Srivastava, IFS from Tamil Nadu State Wetland Authority addressed the students on the importance of wetlands, their role in providing multiple benefits to the society, and the need to protect and conserve them. Darwin Anadurai of Eco Society India delivered the vote of thanks. As part of the event, waste was cleared around the wetland, including water hyacinth; native fish species were let into the lake.

According to a release, local varieties and breeds of flora and fauna are

shrinking or vanishing. This loss is a direct result of human activity and constitutes a threat to human well-being. The State Government recently launched the Tamil Nadu Wetlands Mission and the Tamil Nadu State Wetland Authority, which will put into practice the eco-restoration of about 100 wetlands in Tamil Nadu in a phased manner involving all the stakeholders including the local communities, the press release noted. The project would also look at lost links among the water bodies so as to maintain and retain a viable network of rivers and tributaries interlinked with the wetlands of the State, added the release. Directions have been given to all the districts to have a helpline number for wetlands-related complaints by the public so that immediate action is taken to prevent the wetlands from degradation, added the release.

World Wetlands Day: Mission to ramp up eco-restoration of 100 wetlands

T. SUDHEESH | DC
CHENNAI, FEB 2

As part of its efforts to step up eco-restoration of 100 wetlands across the State within five years, the nascent Tamil Nadu Wetlands Mission, under the Tamil Nadu State Wetland Authority (TNSWA), has prepared 17 draft notifications and 13 Ramsar sites proposals.

In the backdrop of the World Wetlands Day that was observed on Wednesday, Dr Uma Ramachandran, an expert with the TNSWA, said the proposals were prepared as per the Wetland (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017. "Eco-restoration of wetlands is a daunting task. It has been done through a multi-pronged approach with the support of private institutions, voluntary organisations, NGOs and local stakeholders. We hope to accomplish the task of restoring, protecting and conserving the wetlands and strengthen the wise use of wetlands. As part of the effort, we have formed "Wetland Mitras" ('Eeranilangalin Nanbargal') to conduct the groundwork. We have organised a clean-up drive to restore the Selaiyur lake in Tambaram. Also, directions have been given to all district administrations to have a helpline number for wetlands-related complaints from the public so that immediate action is taken to prevent degradation of wetlands," she said. According to her, identifying the natural resources of Chennai and

addressing their degradation in a sustained and systematic way is critical to avoid floods and droughts in the future. The natural ecosystem of Chennai district comprises three rivers namely Kosathalaiyar, Cooum and Adyar; a couple of wetlands (Velachery lake and Adyar Estuary Creek.), and around six forest areas except Huzur Gardens, Vandalur, Guindy National Park, and forests in IIT-Madras, Madras Christian College and Theosophical Society. The human-made Buckingham Canal also plays an equally important role in the water map of the city. Chennai has 31 wetlands and the neighbouring districts - Kancheepuram, Chengalpattu, and Thiruvallur together have 2,389 wetlands, she said.

Darwin Annadurai, convenor, Eco Society India, who is part of the mission, said that restoration of wetlands was the need of the hour considering the fragile ecosystem of Chennai. "It's a grim reality that Cooum and Adyar rivers have been reduced to being a part of the sewage drainage system of the city. A survey in the Cooum river found 49 fish species in 1949, which dwindled to 21 to 1979 and zero by the end of the last millennium. That's what happens when almost two-thirds of the total sewage generated is drained untreated into our wetlands. In addition, a multitude of issues has cropped up including landgrab leading to shrinking of wetlands due to conversion for non-wetland uses, vulnerability to

Call for village-level surveys to map wetlands

B. RAVICHANDRAN | DC
OOTY, FEB.2

As the globe observed World Wetlands Day on Wednesday, the ecologists here called for village-level surveys to map the wetlands and to remove encroachments to regain the micro-level wetland ecosystem for healthy water supply.

M. Kumaravel, field officer at CPR environmental education centre here, said for a healthy hill ecology, wetlands and adjacent grasslands are inseparable units. Wetlands are water bodies saturated with water and act as sponge, retain and release water to the nearby streams in a phased manner to ensure a perennial water supply. This would help manage the water needs. Moreover a wetland ecosystem is essential to conserve the flora and fauna whose survivability depends on wetlands. In ancient times wetlands used to be a major water

encroachments, waste dumping, choked inlets and outlets, depletion of water resources, quantity and quality, invasion of exotic species, depletion of oxygen, dying native species, etc. There is no awareness among people on the benefits of a preserved wetland. It

resource in almost every human settlement. Sadly the wetlands vanished due to unplanned development activities. There is a need to plan for regaining the lost wetland ecosystem, he advocated.

G. Janardhanan, president of the Ooty Town Public Awareness

Association, said time has come for taking up a survey in villages to identify wetlands and to take steps to remove the encroachments in wetlands to gradually regain the lost wetland ecosystem. The local civic body and revenue administrations should form a team to map the wetlands in every village.

Efforts should also be taken to create awareness on the wetland ecosystem and encourage the local communities to conserve wetlands for water supply and irrigation needs. The district administration should take advantage of the favourable court orders to remove encroachments in water sources, he added.

will resolve the storage of fresh water, improve groundwater recharge and water quality, mitigate floods and help to grow a large number of plant and animal biodiversity by supporting livelihoods of the local communities," he said.

Road laid inside Pallikaranai marsh, garbage being dumped

Environment Dept Turns Blind Eye, Say Activists

Omjasvin.MD@timesgroup.com

Chennai: Repeated directions from the Madras high court on protecting water bodies have had no effect, with the eco-sensitive Pallikaranai marshland being grabbed by encroachers who have laid a road into it and are dumping garbage there, say residents.

The environment department, water resources department and the city corporation have turned a blind eye to this menace, they allege.

Residents of Netaji Nagar adjoining the marshland said they spotted garbage trucks dumping debris there and a road being laid



THREATENED: Construction waste being dumped on Pallikaranai wetland

on Friday. Geo-located photos shared by the residents show debris being dumped in the heart of the marshland.

Sajeevan P, a social activist in Perungudi, said this had been happening for more than a week. "It is being done with local political support. First they dump debris. Then they sell the area as plots for as low as ₹3 lakh each. That's how many adjoining areas

in the marshland came up. People from outside Chennai buy these cheap plots," said Sajeevan, who has worked around the marshland for flood relief activities.

TOI shared the images with environment department additional chief secretary Supriya Sahu, who saw them but did not respond. Greater Chennai Corporation executive engineer Purushothaman said he would look into

the issue.

Darwin Annadurai, an environmental scientist and founder of Eco Society India, said the government must immediately fence the marshland. "A wetland delineation study must be done to identify water lands and terrestrial lands. Then the wetland must be fenced," he said.

Such grabbing of a water body would lead to destruction of the ecosystem. "It will affect wildlife such as fish and birds there. When there are no fish, the birds won't come. The illegal activities also affect the water flow. We have to at least protect whatever is remaining in the marshland," he said.

V Ravi, a resident of Pallikaranai, said during the 2015 floods, the whole locality was flooded. "The marshland is an important catchment area into which excess water flows during rain. If it is obstructed by unauthorised constructions, we are going to see floods again," he said.



Volunteers place bamboo guards that are procured directly from weavers

NGO plants saplings under urban forest plan in north Chennai

CHENNAI: To develop green cover in Chennai, a city-based NGO has initiated urban forest project at Dr Ambedkar Government Arts and Science College on Wednesday.

“In the first phase, we have identified 20 places in the city including colleges, parks, and playgrounds. This college has more empty spaces, and an ideal place for green plantations. We have planted 50 saplings with bamboo guards,” said Darwin Annadurai of Eco-Society of India, an NGO. “We are zeroing in North Chennai because it less than 10% greenery in the total land area.”

Usually, there are plastic guards placed around the sapling for protection, but now, bamboo guards, which are procured from weavers, are used. The saplings will be maintained by the college NSS team.

“We have planted native trees such as poovarasan and pungan which are suitable for the soil. Even with minimal watering, the plants will survive and plants that suit Chennai weather condition is selected,” said another volunteer.

Destruction of trees for construction and poor urban planning is another reason for the depleting greenery, pointed out Darwin, and added: “Plants and trees will survive only if the public start supporting the existing flora. It’s the responsibility of all the stakeholders to enhance green cover.”

The NGO noted that this urban forest initiative will be extended to other parts of Chennai with the help of sponsors.