

BHARATIYA VIDYA BHAVAN'S
M. M. College of Arts, N. M. Institute of Science, H. R. J. College of Commerce
BHAVAN'S COLLEGE, ANDHERI (AUTONOMOUS)
DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY
UNDER DBT STAR SCHEME

BIODIVERSITY SURVEYS UNDER THE EIA
(ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT) SCHEME

Mumbai, 2022



Six students from Bachelor's degree – S.Y.B.Sc (Chinmayee Shinde, Manali Khedekar, Apurva Jha, Gaurav Salaskar, Raj Garasia and Kunal Dhanmeher) and three students from TYBSc degree (Kajal Sharma, Nihal Kamble and Siddhant Gaikwad), from Botany Department of Bhavan's College (Autonomous), Andheri West, Mumbai, took up an internship at Environ Policy Research India Pvt. Ltd., Waghle Estate, Thane West, in the month of May.

They have been carrying out extensive biodiversity surveys in the far western regions of the Mumbai city, namely, Mahalaxmi, Lower Parel and Byculla over the course of last one month. Three varied destinations, five quadrants, exigent surroundings and welcomed challenges later, the group of nine have kept themselves busy with the task of geo-tagging the floral diversity found during the

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course of their surveys. As they are divided in groups during most of their surveys, their outreach has been substantial and notice-worthy so far.

These Biodiversity surveys include, at large, the study of Flora, Fauna, Seasonal Variations, Flora-Fauna Relationship and Species Diversity. Their chore starts early morning around 6-6:30 am and with the help of co-ordinators appointed by the company and handy devices like specific applications, distinct plants and birds are identified and made a note of, to be put down later as an organised set of data. This data is then assessed minutely, and while the trees are geo-tagged on google-earth, the other aspects are brought into picture while calculating various biodiversity indices.

All these surveys are done keeping in mind the not-so-well-to-do local assembly of bio-heterogeneity of species in core urban areas of Mumbai, where ironically these assessments are carried out, while also trying to focus on the faulty substitution of aesthetics with misjudgement. Thus far, the focus on the students' part has been to develop a keen understanding of the ins and outs of the EIA, while also developing a sense of perception towards the art of scrutiny.

Other ongoing projects include socio-economic surveys of SRA and Local Happiness Index, while the upcoming ones include the talks of Aquaponics and Hydroponics.