



iNaturewatch Foundation Activity Report (November 2019- January 2020)



Compiled By: Shriya Randive

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Address: Shop 4, Ambika Heritage, Plot 1, Sector-1, Next to Kharghar Railway Station,
Kharghar, Navi Mumbai- 410210.

Email: inaturewatch@gmail.com, **Mobile:** 9987013144

Website: www.inaturewatch.org

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1. INTRODUCTION

iNaturewatch Foundation Activity Report is summarizing the activities conducted by the Foundation from 1 November 2019 to 23 January 2020.

2. SUMMARY

iNaturewatch Foundation Activity Report is summarizing the activities conducted by the Foundation from 1 November 2019 to 23 January 2020. To fulfill the organization’s aim of developing environmentally sensitive citizens by engaging them. iNaturewatch had conducted a diverse range of innovative activities including projects, programs & online courses. In the period of 3 months we have conducted 1 Employee Volunteering Program, 5 Public Walks, 4 Marine Walk for students, 2 Flamingo Boat Rides for public, 3 Free Webinars, 1 lecture on Environmental CSR for students of Social Entrepreneurship for students at NMIMS. and 1 Session on Butterflies & Social Entrepreneurship followed by a field visit for BVIEER students. We have launched 3 Online Courses and of which two are completed and the third will complete on 26 January 2020. The Butterfly Garden Project at Yusuf Mehrally Center, Karnala– A CSR of DCB Bank Project has been completed. In the 3 years journey iNaturewatch has successfully touched total 7,487 people.

3. OUR INSECT ECO- CALENDER

We are happy to present our desk calendar which is based on the theme of insects. It has 12 different striking images of various insects each for a month marked with eco-days of that month. You could learn about our activities of last year



Insect Eco Calendar 2020

4. OUR PROUD FOOT PRINT

Our area of operations; Blue is iNaturewatch Foundation, Green is Ladybird Environmental Consulting and Orange represents moth book orders of Birdwing Publishers



5. STAFF UPDATE

We had a new addition to iNaturewatch Family. Ms Nishtha Raut has joined as an Administrative Officer from 1 Oct 2019.



Ms Nishtha Raut – Administrative Officer

6. PROGRAMMES

6.1 EMPLOYEE VOLUNTERING PROGRAMS

23 Dec 2019: Kitchen Gardening Workshop for Students at Urban Haat, Belapur.

iNaturewatch conducted a full day workshop on Kitchen Gardening for 46 students from J.V.P.D School, Vile Parle and Taraben High school, Santacruz. Students not only had demonstrations on making compost & soil making but also participated in hands on activity on planter making reusing plastic bottles and also learnt potting a sapling. The 2 groups were taken on Nature trail led by Dr V Shubhalaxmi and Ms Priti Choghale in the mini forest of Urban Haat. Students were stunned to see species like Ghost Tree, gigantic Bamboo. They also saw Bug Hotels on their way and were fascinated by the concept. They were then engaged into making clippings of wedelia plant and planting them. Later they had an Environmental Quiz and a Nature Game- which through fun and play made them realise how pollution is increasing and resources are depleting. Last activity was the one in which everyone's excitement overflows - The Treasure Hunt. Clues of the treasure was based on the Nature Trail they had. It was really an enthralling day in which students had practical learning with fun...



23 Dec 2019: Kitchen Gardening Workshop for Students at Urban Haat, Belapur.

6.2 PUBLIC WALKS

3 Nov 2019: Bird watching at Green Valley Park, Belapur

iNaturewatch conducted a Bird watching event on 3 Nov 2019. An enthusiastic group of 10 walked across- Green Valley Park - The mini forest of Navi Mumbai. Though we couldn't spot much birds, we were stunned by the huge number of colourful butterflies and insects that were showered as we sneaked inside the mini paradise. The group was led by Dr. V. Shubhalaxmi a well-known entomologist also known as - Bug Lady and by Suraj Das a nature enthusiast. It was an overall enthralling experience.



3 Nov 2019: Bird watching at Green Valley Park, Belapur

17 Nov 2019: Bird watching in Kharghar Mangroves

A group of bird enthusiasts huddled Sunday morning at Kharghar Station to get a peek into Kharghar Mangroves. The area behind Kharghar Station is taken over farmlands. Passing through the endless patch of agriculture farms, the group witnessed several farm birds such as mynas, munias, warblers, bulbuls, egrets and doves. At the end of trail which opened to mudflats of mangroves the group saw maximum birds including mudskippers and Fidler crabs. The sighting included Godavit, Plovers, Curlew, Ibis, Purple and grey heron, cormorants, painted stork, Common and White breasted kingfishers and so on. The entire pathway was dotted a riots of wildflowers mostly glories from Ipomoea group. The group did draw a good amount of attention by the station goers wondering what we are upto..



17 Nov 2019: Bird watching in Kharghar Mangroves

17 November 2019: Marine Walk at Chimbai Beach for Local Citizens

On 17 Nov 2019 about 15 nature enthusiasts along with their kids walked across the rocky beach of Chimbai for a Marine Walk conducted by iNaturewatch Foundation in collaboration with Ladybird Environmental Consulting LLP and United Way Mumbai. This beach that has been identified as dirtiest and up for rejuvenation, never fails to amaze us with the enchanting unexplored biodiversity that it beholds. On the marine walk we sighted species such as Nereis species, Eggs of moon snail, hermit crabs, cerethid shells and many more. The young learners were so inquisitive about the the marine diversity that they witnessed which is otherwise unexplored. The walk aimed at creating awareness about city's own natural treasures



8 December 2019: Free Birdwalk at Bhandup Pumping Station

iNaturewatch Foundation had organized a Free Birdwalk at Bhandup Pumping Station from 7:30 am to 9:30 am. More than 35 avid birders who participated in the walk has the best place and time to witness them. The walk was led by Dr. Ketki Marthak who is an ENT by profession and birder by passion. She focused on the fact that one doesn't always need binoculars to identify birds !! and how to spot differences between similar birds. With the stories that were narrated about specific bird species, all the birders from children to adults got involved... We spotted more than 25 species for birds like a house sparrow, wood sandpiper, pond heron, red vented bulbul, rose ring parakeet, green bee-eater, golden oriole, white-eared bulbul, long-tailed shrike, marsh harrier and many more. It was a perfect birdy Sunday for all



8 December 2019: Free Birdwalk at Bhandup Pumping Station

4 Jan 2020: Tree Walk at Central Park, Kharghar

Built on lines of Central Park of NYC, Central Park in Kharghar is the largest urban park in Asia with 290 acres and third largest in the world. on plantation we could assign a particular pathway to a tree e.g. Sita Ashok Lane, Peepal Lane, Tabebuia Lane, Copper pod Lane, Laburnum Lane and Wild Almond Lane. The other trees who were the remanent of original forests included; Red Silk Cotton, Mahuva, Soccer Ball, Asan, Palymra, Charcoal tree, Banyan, iron tree and so on. The other highlights included hibernating stink bugs, harvester ants busy dehusking. Caterpillar of plain tiger and humming bird hawkmoth and green lacewing. There were good number of birds too such a Yellow wagtails, Black Drongo, Red Wattled lapwing, Shikha etc ,



4 Jan 2020: Tree Walk at Central Park, Kharghar

6.3 FREE MARINE WALK FOR STUDENTS

18 November: Free Marine Walk for M.K.E.S School students

iNaturewatch Foundation in collaboration with Ladybird Environmental Consulting and United Way Mumbai organized a Marine walk for M.K.E.S school students. Around 50 students participated in the 2 hr Marine Walk from 8:30am to 10:30am. The walk was conducted by Marine Biologists Mr Abuthathgir and Mr Satish. The students were accompanied by their teachers and they were divided into 2 groups. The group sighted Dead Sea Snake, Grouper Fish, brown spotted reef cod, Hooded oyster, hermit crabs, acorn barnacles and many more species. It was a fun with learning experience for children wherein they explored the unexplored marine life in real time outside the 4 walls of their class room.



18 November : Marine Walk for M.K.E.S School students

17 Dec 2019: Free Marine Walk at Chimbai Beach for G.N Khalsa College students

iNaturewatch Foundation in collaboration with United Way Mumbai conducted Free Marine Walk for the students of G.N. Khalsa college Mumbai on 17 Dec 2019. Around 53 students participated in the Marine Walk wherein they explored the unseen marine biodiversity in the inter tidal zone of Chimbai. This rocky beach within its rocks hides a bounty of marine treasures. The walk was led by Mr Abuthagir and Mr. Satish. The participants were more than overwhelmed to spot more than 30 species ranging from terapon fish, murex shells, pistol shrimps, crabs and many more. The showstopper for the day was beaked sea snake. The Marine walk aimed at creating awareness about the less talked marine biodiversity that our city is home to...



17 Dec 2019: Free Marine Walk at Chimbai Beach for Khalsa College

14 Jan 2020: Free Marine Walk at Chimbai Beach for Xavier's College students

iNaturewatch conducted a free marine walk for 31 students of Xaviers college on 14 Jan 2020 from 7 am to 9 am. The group sighted species of crab - Metopograpsus sp, Portunus sp, Egg mass of Nerita

sp., Ceratium sp., Amphipods, Sponges and sea anemone. Ghost fishing was found and live berried crabs found in the netting. There was an unplanned mangrove cleanup taken up by the students which indicated awareness in the current generation.



14 Jan 2020: Free Marine Walk at Chimbai Beach for Xaviers College students

15th Jan 2020: Marine Walk at Chimbai Beach for Somaiya College Students

On 15th Jan 2020 Marine walk was conducted by Sathish Chennuri and Chanakya at Chimbai beach(Bandra). Somaiya college students accompanied by their professors attended the marine walk, we could observe lot of rocky shore inhabitant flora and fauna i.e pistol shrimp, rock crabs, mollusc shells, hermit crab, sponges, sea anemone and decorator worm etc. Today we also have observed lot of abandoned fishing net (ghost net) in the intertidal region which may trap lot of organisms unnecessarily. The students also spotted the gutters releasing into the ocean and marine debris.



15th Jan 2010: Marine Walk at Chimbai Beach for Somaiya College Students

6.4 FLAMINGO BOAT RIDE AT AIROLI

15 Dec 2019: Flamingo Boat Safari

We conducted first Flamingo Boat Safari for the season. We were joined by a group of 24 birding enthusiasts families. We began our afternoon programme with a tour to the Marine Centre followed by a brief walk among the mangroves. The participants patiently waited for the boat ride. As the journey began everybody were elated to see the lush green mangroves and basically enjoying the sea ride. Their excitement heightened when they got to see a large flock of Pied Avocet following by a large flock of flamingos. They were speechless to watch them in flight. Everybody expressed their gratitude for exposing them to mystical world of birds.



15 Dec 2019: Flamingo Boat Safari

24 Dec 2019: Flamingo Boat Ride at Airoli

We organised a Flamingo Boat Ride at Airoli on 24 Dec 2019 and were joined by 24 nature enthusiasts for the last boat of the year... The morning started with sailing inside mangroves of Airoli witnessing many aquatic birds like Pied Avocets, Wimbrel, Northern Shoveler, Little Stints, Egrets. The showstopper for the say was the pink breeze of happiness- The flamingoes, After the boat ride, participants were taken on a Nature Trail in the mangroves. They saw different species of mangroves as well as how mangroves adapt in salty water through nematophores. They also saw Meswak tree and understood its uses, sighted Salmon Arab butterfly. The day ended with a tour of the Marine Biodiversity Center.



24 Dec 2019: Flamingo Boat Ride at Airoli

6.5 SESSIONS FOR STUDENTS

27 Dec 2019: Sessions on Butterflies & Social Entrepreneurship

It was a good way to end our year as Isaac Kehimkar and V.Shubhalaxmi we're invited at BVIEER to conduct two sessions on Butterfly Study Techniques and Social Entrepreneurship for the M.Sc. students. A group 40 students attended these sessions. Butterfly presentations were followed by field visit to Vetal Tekdi. It was a full day event that began at 9.30 am. and concluded at 2.30 pm.



Field visit to Vetal Tekdi.



Dr V. Shubhalaxmi in the lecture at NMIMS

4 Jan 2020: Lecture on Environmental CSR for students of Social Entrepreneurship at NMIMS

Our new year started with first lecture on Environmental CSR for 25 students of Social Entrepreneurship. We were happy to share our case studies of CSR projects and corporate employee volunteering programmes. The talk was delivered by Dr. V. Shubhalaxmi.

6.6 FREE WEBINARS

10 Nov 2019: Free Webinar on Kitchen Gardening

Mr Isaac Kehimkar & Dr. V. Shubhalaxmi conducted an interactive session on Google Hangout about Kitchen Gardening on 10 Nov 2019 from 7 pm to 8 pm. They were joined by gardening enthusiasts who were more than interested to learn about setting up Kitchen Garden in their own homes.



10 Nov 2019: Free Webinar on Kitchen Gardening

1 Dec 2019: Free Webinar on Bird Calls

A free webinar on bird calls of different types of birds was conducted by Dr Ketki Mhartak, Vice Chairman of iNaturewatch Foundation and a bird enthusiast. The webinar was conducted on 1 Dec from 11.30 am to 12.30 pm



1 Dec 2019: Free Webinar on Bird Calls

19 Jan 2020: Free Webinar on Tree Plantation Tips

We conducted such a webinar for first time. The webinar was joined by five participants who were mostly college students. The purpose of our webinar was to do some myth busting surrounding tree

plantation and seed bombs. The science behind tree plantation was explained and the do's and dont's were discussed.



19 Jan 2020: Free Webinar on Tree Plantation Tips

7. LECTURE OF Mr. ISSAC KEHIMKAR AT BHATKANTI KATTA, THANE



A butterfly awareness lecture was conducted by Mr. Issac Kehimkar on 14 January 2020 at thane for the members of Bhatkanti Katta.

8. ONLINE COURSES

8.1 COMPLETED COURSES

- **15 Oct 2019: Bugs for Beginners**

iNaturewatch Foundation had launched the first crash course on Insects that was being offered through a virtual class. It was a 6 weeks blended course with field works and online assignments. The course covered topics on how to identify and locate insects, where to look for insects, and what kind of study resources are available. The specialty of the course were the simple lucid presentations which could be understood by common people and learn about insects in a short time. We had total 9 participants from different fields who took up this course. We completed with our Online Course Bugs for Beginners on 26 Nov 2019



Certificate & Troubleshooting Video Chat Session- Bugs for Beginners

Course Reviews by Participants

Bug's for Beginners online course batch (15 Oct- 24 Nov)

We successfully completed the on 24 November 2019 with an hangout session with the participants wherein the participants presented their insect documentation work. Following is the feedback of the course participant Mrs Nirmala Nair " I began the course with an interest in bugs but I had no idea just how fascinating they are. I can't pick any one module as my favourite since they were all well presented and really helped to build on the course as a whole, right from the course orientation, to video lectures, video chat session with Issac Kehimkar Sir, and Shubhalaxmi Ma'am..Ms Priti. Hands on experience of DIY projects likes butterfly rearing kit, bug hotel bee home, these all could be very helpful not only for me but also the students to whom I am going to interact with. I liked 'Kaun Benaga entomologist quiz', because the facts were all new to me. Never I used to read Entomology news but I got time to read entomology news because it was one of our assignment. I learnt how to conduct field visit to different habitat like Garden, City Park, Forest, Pond and the report making with the help of data collected during the visit. BUGS FOR BEGINNERS" is a short duration course for one and a half month period but such a limited period, this course helped me to identify insects belong to the order Hymenoptera, Diptera, Odonata, Orthoptera, Lepidoptera, Coleoptera, Mantodea, Phasmida, etc .

This also made me capable to identify butterflies like plain tiger, common Mormon, blue mormon, red pierrot, common emigrant, tailed jay, Jezebel, Common grass yellow, Great egg fly skippers etc. I thoroughly enjoyed this course and felt it was really well executed course, and overall I highly recommend it. This course helped me to interact with people having same interest. I am very thankful to all the faculties of I nature watch foundation



Nair Nirmala ▶ INaturewatch Foundation



January 8 · 🌐

I successfully completed the course and received a certificate also. I thoroughly enjoyed this course and felt it was really well executed course, and overall I highly recommend it. This course helped me to interact with people having same interest. I am very thankful to all the faculties of I nature watch foundation — with [Ecopreneur Shubha](#).

- **15 Nov 2019: Kitchen Gardening for Beginners**

iNaturewatch launched India's first crash course on Kitchen Gardening that was being offered through a virtual class. It was a blended course with field works and online assignments and an online course for hobby learners. It included takeaway lessons such as how to plan a kitchen garden, how to plant saplings and take care of them, what kind of tools to be used and how to recycle kitchen waste to produce a quality manure for the plants.



Kitchen Gardening for Beginners 2.0

5 Jan 2020: Conclusion of Online Course Kitchen Gardening for Beginners 2.0

We concluded our 6-week online course on Kitchen Gardening for Beginners by our last session on Garden Care which was conducted by Isaac Kehimkar

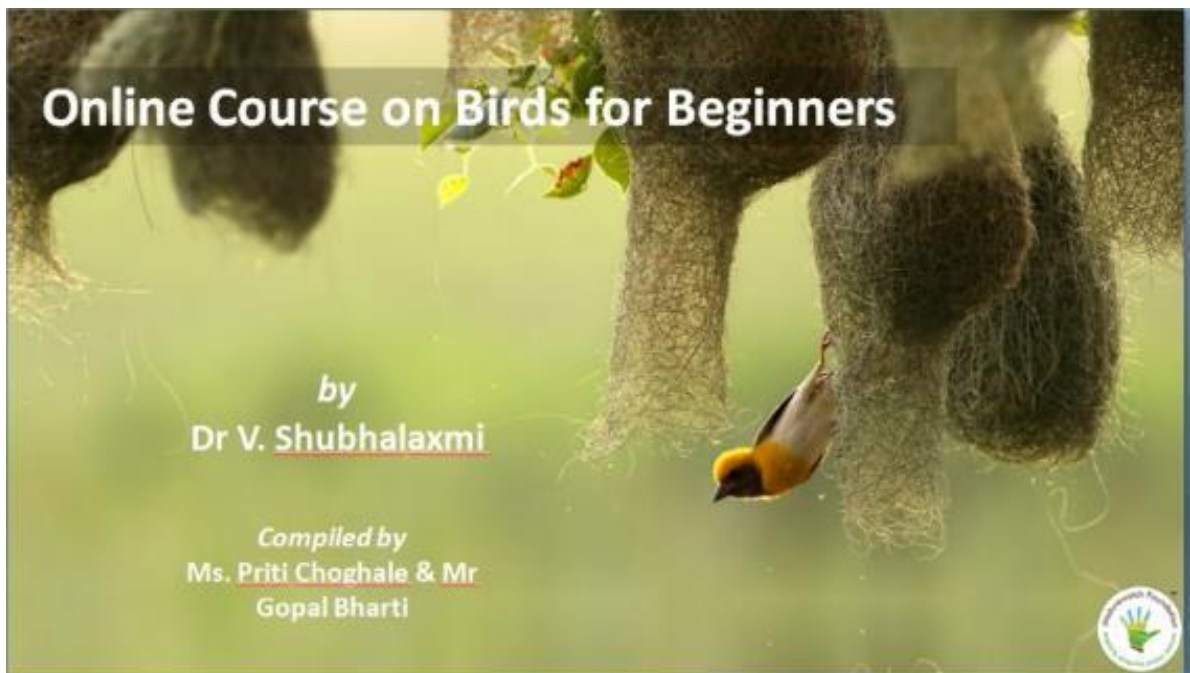


Conclusion of Online Course Kitchen Gardening for Beginners 2.0

8.2 ONGOING COURSE

- **15 Dec 2019: Birds for Beginners**

iNaturewatch launched India's first crash course on birds that is being offered through a virtual class. A blended course with field visits and online assignments for amateur bird enthusiasts from all the fields. It is a 6 weeks online course will help participants about where to look for birds how to identify birds as well as their calls, when birds breed and how they make their nests, what type of bird study resources is available etc. Currently we have 8 people undertaking this course.



Birds for Beginners 2.0

8.3 UPCOMING COURSE

- **1 Feb 2019: Trees for Beginners 2.0**

iNaturewatch will be launching a unique course of its kind which is a blended course with field and online assignments. The course enables you to learn about plant basics in just 6 weeks...It is a beginner's course for amateur nature enthusiast whom the botanical world enchants. The course will offer takeaway lessons such as tree Identification Skills, understanding role of plants in ecosystem, learning about plants with respect to their ecology, learning about local flora, writing and analytical skills by online referencing for scientific papers, understanding of ecology through field trips (self-assisted).

9. MENTORING STUDENTS FOR COMPETITIVE EXAMS.

Student Scientists: We are offering mentoring on one to one basis for designing and implementing Action Research Projects for competitive exams such as Homi Bhabha Exam . First mentoring session is free. We even have received a mentorship request of a class 6 student for Homi Bhabha Science Exam. We will be helping him develop his project based on documenting the biodiversity at Urban Haat and its interpretation using our offline mobile apps.



10. OUR TARGET AUDIENCE

So far, we have been able to reach a varied audience including students, nature enthusiasts and citizens in Navi Mumbai, Mumbai and Bangalore, Hyderabad, Pune, Kolkata, Ahmedabad, Haryana. Our target audience includes corporates mostly from banking sector, students from schools, colleges and other institutions, and local citizens. The local citizens can be a target audience from wide sectors from teachers, photographers, researchers, environmental educators, people working in the field of environment, nature enthusiasts from other sectors as well. Through our programmes we have been able to reach out to 440 people in 3 months. The number of participants event wise have been listed in Annexure 2 below.

11. MEDIA COVERAGE & ONLINE PRESENCE



• [Article about our Director Mr Isaac Kehimkar in Tarun Bharat Newspaper, 2 Nov 2019.](#)



• [Article in Midday Newspaper about Inaturewatch's Children Volunteering Day at Kharghar Valley, 15 Nov 2019.](#)

- [Article about Bird Watching at Bhandup Pumping Station in Mumbai Mirror, 5 Dec 2019.](#)

12. ANNEXURES

Annexure 1: Facebook Review

4.9

4.9 out of 5 ⓘ

Based on the opinion of 32 people



Alton Fernandes reviewed INaturewatch Foundation — 5★



June 30, 2017 · 🌐

I completed the 3 months entomology course and loved the overall experience and learning process. Shubha maam, Isaac sir and other faculty are awesome at explaining the course curriculum and also beyond.. The best part was that even when I was sometimes lagging in my project work, I would get reminders from the course coordinators also. thank you guys, I learnt a lot from this course..



INaturewatch Foundation and Sabir Shaikh

1 Comment

Like

Comment

Share



INaturewatch Foundation Thank you Alton for taking out time to write your review. We wish you best of luck

1



Ankit Rampuria recommends INaturewatch Foundation.

September 15, 2019 · 🌐



I have been part of a trek and nature trail organised by them and I have thoroughly enjoyed both of them. Kudos to the awesome team

Ecopreneur Shubha



Smita Barvataya recommends INaturewatch Foundation.

October 20, 2019 · 🌐



very informative walk. was really worthwhile. keep up the good work



Annexure 2: Total Number of Individuals Reached from Nov 2019 – Jan 2020

TYPE OF PROGRAMME	TOTAL NO OF PROGRAMMES	TOTAL NO OF PARTICIPANTS
EVP	1	48
Public Walk	5	105
Marine Walk for Students	4	124
Flamingo Boat Safari	2	48
Session for Students	2	65
Webinar	3	29
Courses	3	21
Total		440

THANK YOU