



Wetland, New, Monitor

January - February 2018

TRENDING TOPICS IN THIS ISSUE:

- 1. Report on Mangrove**
- 2. Report on World Wetlands Day Celebrations 2018**
- 3. News on Wetland Birds**
- 4. Report on Crocodiles in Charotar wetlands**
- 5. Information on Wetland Conservation**
- 6. Report on Wetland Events**
- 7. General Wetland News**

News brief on Mangrove, World Wetlands Day Celebrations 2018, Wetland Birds, Crocodiles, Wetland Conservation, Events.



Report on Mangrove

Mangrove wetland is considered as most productive, but increasingly threatened by biotic pressure, changing land use patterns and natural calamities. Gujarat hosts the second largest mangrove cover (1,140 sq km) in the country (4,921 sq km). Gujarat was ranked third in India in terms of increase in mangrove cover as against that of 2015. Maharashtra topped the tally with an increase of 82 sq km followed by Andhra Pradesh with 37 sq km and Gujarat with an increase of 33 sq km. The three states, in total, contributed to increase of 152 sq km of the 181 sq km increase in all coastal states. The highest mangrove cover was in West Bengal which has an area of 2,114 sq km of mangrove.

In Gujarat, Kutch led the tally with 798 sq km of mangrove. The district increased its mangrove area by 12 sq km as against that of 2015. This is followed by Jamnagar where the increase is 11 sq km. The Mangrove cover in Jamnagar was of 184 sq km. In the state, Ahmedabad district was the only district where there was a reduction in mangrove cover. The district lost 1 sq km mangrove cover with only 32 sq km of mangrove cover present. The mangrove forests of the State are represented by 15 mangrove species which include *Avicennia marina* (*A. Marina*), *Avicennia officinalis*, *Avicennia alba*, *Acanthus ilicifolius*, *Aegiceras corniculatum*, *Bruguiera cylindrica*, *Bruguiera gymnorrhiza*, *Ceriops tagal*, *Ceriops decandra*, *Excoecaria agallocha*, *Kandelia candel*, *Lumnitzera racemosa*, *Rhizophora mucronata*, *Rhizophora apiculata*, *Sonneratia apetala*. Among these 15 species, *A. marina* is the most dominant species in the state.

Source:

- <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/ahmedabad/mangrove-cover-grows-by-33-sq-km/articleshow/62892296.cms>



Report on World Wetlands Day Celebrations 2018

World Wetlands Day is celebrated every year on 2nd February. This day marks the date of the adoption of the Convention on Wetlands on 2nd February 1971, in the Iranian city of Ramsar on the shores of the Caspian Sea. Since 1997, the Ramsar Secretariat has provided outreach materials to help raise public awareness about the importance and value of wetlands. The Standing Committee of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands approved "Wetlands for a Sustainable Urban Future" as the theme for World Wetlands Day in 2018. Below are the World Wetlands Day celebrated by various institutes/organisations/etc.

i. Seminars, rallies and workshops by various institutes/organisations in Coimbatore

Rallies, seminars, and workshops were organised by various organisations in Coimbatore city on World Wetlands Day 2018. The Centre for Urban Biodiversity Conservation and Education (CUBE) organised a massive cleaning programme at Singanallur Lake, Coimbatore as part of World Wetlands Day observance. They planted 500 saplings on the banks of the lake, organised a cycle rally in which over 75 students of Sri Jayendra Saraswathy Vidyalaya Educational Institutions have participated. On this occasion, a poster brought out by CUBE was released by Jairam Varadaraj, managing director of ELGi Equipments, in the presence of environmentalist S.P. Anbarasan. The programme was organised by the Coimbatore Division of the Forest Department, Coimbatore City Municipal Corporation, and Sri Jayendra Saraswathy Vidyalaya Educational Institutions. N. Satheesh, District Forest Officer (Coimbatore Division), and Ruban Sankar Raj, Project Director of DRDA, among others took part.

NSS volunteers and students from AJK College of Arts and Science took out a rally from Women's Polytechnic to VOC Park via Balasundaram Road as part of World Wetlands Day observance. The rally was flagged off by Vanitha Mohan, managing trustee of Siruthuli, and R. Baskar, NSS Programme Coordinator (in charge) of Bharathiar University. Students took a pledge at the end of the rally at VOC Park and distributed pamphlets on wetland conservation.

World Wetlands Day 2018 was observed at the Bharathiar University. The programme was organised by the Department of Zoology and Nature Club of the University in association with Environmental Information System (ENVIS) Centre and Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and



Natural History (SACON). K. Sankar, Director of SACON, and Ram Pratap Singh, Scientist, SACON, gave special lectures.

Western Ghats International School and the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) jointly observed the World Wetlands Day at the school campus. Landscape coordinator of WWF India in Western Ghats, Boominathan, and president of the Environment Conservation Group Mohamed Salim took part. Over 50 students were taken on a field trip to Walayar Dam and were explained about migratory birds.

Source:

- <http://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Coimbatore/seminars-rallies-mark-world-wetlands-day/article22641477.ece>

ii. Non-governmental organizations

United Way, Non-governmental organization (NGO) in association with iNature Foundation has organised a free mangrove walk to create awareness and an attempt to encourage school and college students to take environment concerns seriously at Talawe wetlands in Nerul, Navi Mumbai on the occasion of World Wetlands Day celebration. The mangroves work as a protection to townships such as Navi Mumbai against natural calamities such as cyclones, storms, floods and heavy rains and wind for which they need to be protected and in turn they protect our fragile coastline. The problem occurs when the mangroves are polluted and strewn with garbage, debris and plastics. While much of it may be thrown back into the sea, ecology damage is already done.

With no costs, the organisers say the initiative is both for awareness and information. The theme this year was 'Wetlands for a Sustainable Urban Future' and this initiative is part of Mission Mangrove, a project that helps participants to learn and understand about mangroves, waders and wetlands. The trail started at 8am and this area has been chosen particularly since it is an ideal spot where mangroves are found in plenty in Navi Mumbai. As a result a number of migratory birds spotted here as well during this season.



Thane is to get Creek Safari on this World Wetlands Day 2018. Concerned at the disappearing wetlands and its impact on the biodiversity that survives in the marshes, the district administration pledged to take concrete steps to prevent the destruction of the mangrove. District collector Mahendra Kalyankar said the importance of these wetlands has never been fully understood resulting in illegal massacre or misused as dumping grounds to reclaim the lands for unauthorized activities. Kalyankar addressed a programme on wetland awareness organized by a voluntary group Paryavaran Dakshata Manch on the occasion of the World Wetland Day. While taking strict action on wetland encroachers comprises a major part of the collectorate's environmental plan this year, they also have a creek safari initiative on the lines of the Airoli biodiversity Centre's Eco Tours, in the pipeline.

Three water bodies in Chennai city on World Wetlands Day 2018 have been restored by the joint efforts by the civic body, public works department and non-governmental biodiversity research organisation CareEarth Trust. The water bodies that have been restored are Narayanapuram lake in Pallikaranai, Perungalathur lake, and the Korattur-Madhavaram-Ambattur lakes.

Source:

- <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/navi-mumbai/mangrove-walk-in-nerul-today/articleshow/62866132.cms>
- <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/thane/thane-to-get-creek-safari-this-world-wetlands-day-dist-collector/articleshow/62760831.cms>
- <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/chennai/hyacinth-out-sewer-line-plugged-three-water-bodies-restored/articleshow/62748110.cms>

iii. Mangalavanam Bird Sanctuary, Kerala

World Wetlands Day 2018 was celebrated at the Mangalavanam Bird Sanctuary. Renjith Thampan, Additional Advocate General of the High Court of Kerala inaugurated a panel discussion on 'Wetlands for Kochi's sustainable future' and stated that public awareness is important to realise the need to conserve wetlands.



Scientists, conservationists, lawyers, and students participated in the half-day event organised by the Community Environment Resource Centre of the Asoka Trust for Ecology and Environment (ATREE) and the Indian Association of Lawyers. The programme focused on the need for better water quality in wetlands and streamlining of wetland policies to conserve ecosystems. Priyadarshan Dharma Rajan (senior fellow, ATREE), moderator reported that with the new Wetland (Conservation and Management) Rules introduced in 2017, the Centre has washed its hands off its responsibility for wetlands and their conservation by putting the responsibility on State wetland authorities. Harish Vasudevan Sreedevi, an advocate practising at the Kerala High Court, panellist stated that apart from changing the definition of what a wetland is, the new rules have also changed the way wetlands should be identified. He added that the studies show that one hectare of wetland produces at least Rs. 20 lakh worth ecosystem services. Panelist Shylaraj K.S., director of Kochi's Rice Research Institute, touched on the importance of conserving the completely-organic Pokkali system of rice farming to save wetlands, for, along with the indigenous Pokkali rice variety and fish / prawn farms, the system supports mangroves (which qualify as coastal wetlands) along its edge. The event was organised in association with Sacred Heart College, Thevara; Cochin Natural History Society, and Cochin University of Science and Technology, was supported by the Directorate of Environment and Climate Change.

Source:

- <http://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Kochi/meet-lays-stress-on-public-awareness-to- conserve-wetlands/article22639180.ece>

iv. Kottooli wetlands, Kerala

Kottooli wetlands, also named as the lungs of Kozhikode city is around 150 acres in the heart of a city is home to more than 300 species of flowering plants, seven species of mangroves, seven species of figs, 16 species of snakes, 14 species of owls, 85 species of butterflies, 140 species of birds, 21 species of spiders and more despite all the pollution. Mohammed Jaffer Palot from the Zoological Survey of India stated the importance of Kottooli wetlands and the need to protect it at the World Wetland Day programme in Kozhikode. This is the only place where two species of hornbill have been sighted. The wetlands form habitat for otters, jackals, bats, dragonflies, flying lizard, turtles, frogs and around 61 types of migratory birds as well. The World Wetlands Day

was observed under the aegis of Darshanam Samaskarika Vedi with the support of the Kerala State Council for Science, Technology and Environment.



Kottooli wetland

Source: The Hindu Dt.: February 03, 2018

Source:

- <http://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/kozhikode/call-to-protect-kottooli-wetlands/article22638601.ece>

News on Wetland Birds

i. Visitors at Surajpur Wetland

According to a survey done by Delhi-based NGO Wetlands Internationals, the number of migratory birds visiting sanctuaries in Noida is decreasing by each passing year. Almost 9,000 trees in the surrounding area were lost and so a huge source of food for them was lost. The habitat is also disturbed due to noise pollution caused by traffic and construction work. According to the survey done this month, 11,000 migratory birds of 64 species have visited the



Okhla Bird Sanctuary and over 3,000 birds of 52 species at Surajpur Wetland and Natural Forest. But these numbers are far less as compared to previous years. Bird watchers and photographers also reported that there has been a considerable decline in the number of migratory birds visiting the bird parks in Noida.

Black-necked stork, near-threatened species was recorded for first instances and is successfully breeding in Delhi NCR's Surajpur Wetland until a decade ago, had reduced to nothing more than a filthy, polluted pond. Classified as near-threatened since 2004 by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the unusual sighting was recorded on a dry tree-top at the Surajpur Wetland in Greater Noida between December 2017 and January 2018.

The black-necked stork is a member of stork family that lives across south and Southeast Asia. In India, it is a widespread resident species that migrates locally. It prefers natural wetlands as freshwater marshes, lakes, large rivers and open forest pools while feeding on smaller animals like mollusks, crabs, insects, fish, frogs and reptiles. As per IUCN, the species is threatened due to habitat loss, overfishing, overgrazing, hunting, encroachment of agriculture land, felling of nest trees. As per Birdlife International, its estimated global population is 21,000 mature individuals and 31,000 individuals in total at present.

The story of the stork in Delhi-NCR is also linked to the story of the Surajpur Wetland. Until 2009, pollution and encroachment had choked the ecosystem. With efforts of the forest department in 2009, endangered birds such as Sarus Cranes began breeding here. The protected forest land under the Surajpur Wetland and Reserve Forest stretches across 350 hectares and different micro-habitats existed in the area alongside each other has ensured that different species of birds thrive.



A pair of Sarus Crane at Dhanauri Wetland in
Greater Noida



Seagull



Dhanauri Wetlands



Brown-headed barbet



Eared Grebe



Painted stork

Source: Times of India Dt.: January 18, 2018



Black-necked stork

Source: The Indian Express Dt.: February 7, 2018

ii. Accidental injuries by feeding junk food to wetland birds

The unhealthy and wrong practice of feeding oily, junk food like wafers, gathiya snacks to wetland birds along the creek and seaside has led to accidental injuries for three seagulls at the Airoli Bridge, Navi Mumbai. Fortunately, an animal activist noticed it and immediately sought help to rescue the seagulls. Activist and honorary wildlife warden of Thane Forest, Sunish Subramanian have written an official letter to the state forest department urging them to raise awareness against this growing trend of feeding junk food to birds. He stated that it is rather fortunate that the three injured seagulls recovered quickly. But, in future there can be fatalities and the bikers and motorists may also become accident victims if there are too many low flying sea birds on the roads and bridges. Forest official informed that they are planning to set up posters or banners along the bridge site to request citizens not to feed snacks or other forms of processed food items to the sea birds, since it does not suit them and can also cause road accidents. Veteran naturalist and bird watcher, Sunjoy Monga, commented that there should be mass awareness drives about this unhealthy trend of feeding junk food to wetland birds. He

added that in Allahabad (in Sangam site) people are feeding hundreds of bird's oily snacks. Seagulls basically scavenge for organic food along the seacoast and creeks.

iii. Rarely seen Kittiwake sighted in Goa

Goan birders and a few forest officials tramping around the bigger wetlands in North Goa on their annual water fowl count have sighted the rarely seen black-legged Kittiwake. This seabird species from the gull is not a regular visitor to India and hardly eight sightings have been reported so far. During the last few days, the little gull has been spotted by some birders at the Morjim sandbank. Though there is speculation that this may be the first record of the kittiwake, Abhishek Jamalabad, an independent marine biologist said it had been spotted in the past in Goa.

iv. Little Bunting sighted in Barkur wetlands

A group of four birders, Adithya Bhat, Sahana M., Arun Prabhu and Kumudini Prabhu, sighted a Little Bunting at the wetlands in Barkur village of Udupi district on 28th January 2018. According to a press release issued by Coastal Karnataka Bird Watchers Network, the Little Bunting is a small passerine bird belonging to the bunting and sparrow family.



The Little Bunting sighted in Udupi district.

Source: The Hindu Dt.: February 06, 2018

The breeding range of this bird is Taiga of the far north-east of Europe and Northern Asia. It migrates to Southern China and North-East India during winter. It is usually seen in



agricultural habitat with an altitude of 3,300-6,600 ft. So this sighting of Little Bunting at this altitude in the wetlands of Barkur was a pleasant surprise. So far in South India, only two sightings of Little Bunting has been recorded - one from Pune in Maharashtra and another from Munnar in Kerala. This also emphasises the importance of preservation of wetlands in places such as Barkur. M. Shivashankar, Co-founder of the network reported that this is the first recorded sighting of the Little Bunting in Karnataka.

Source:

- <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/noida/smog-and-shrinking-wetlands-keep-migratory-birds-away-from-noida/articleshow/62541023.cms>
- <http://indianexpress.com/article/cities/delhi/black-necked-stork-is-surprise-visitor-at-surajpur-wetlands-5054246/>
- <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/navi-mumbai/seagulls-injured-as-people-feed-junk-food-to-wetland-birds-in-airoli/articleshow/63097702.cms>
- <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/goa/rarely-seen-kittiwake-sighted-visiting-wetlands-in-state/articleshow/62596644.cms>
- <http://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Mangalore/little-bunting-sighted-in-barkur-wetlands/article22664962.ece>

Report on Crocodiles in Charotar wetlands

The wetlands of lush green Anand and Kheda districts - the twins popularly known as Charotar belt of Gujarat are home to at least 131 crocodiles. The Voluntary Nature Conservancy (formerly known as Vidyanagar Nature Club) which had organised the two days crocodile count on 6th and 7th January 2018 believes that although its volunteers could sight 131 muggers, the population of crocodiles in this rural heartland of Gujarat has remained stagnant. In the fourth crocodile count, they had sighted around 200 crocodiles where all the water bodies were brimming with water. The reptiles were spread over an area of 1,300 sq km of the twin districts. Of the 131 individuals sighted, 63 crocodiles were bigger than two metre, 44 were of size between 1 and 2 metre, 12

were of size less than 1 metre and while the team could not know the size of the rest of the reptiles.



Crocodiles in Charotar wetlands.

Source: The Times of India Dt.: January 23, 2018

Source:

- <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/vadodara/charotar-wetlands-home-to-131-crocodiles/articleshow/62610472.cms>

Information on Wetland Conservation

Once after the notification of wetland rules by the Central government, the state government has finally constituted a 21-member Maharashtra State Wetland Authority (MSWA) under environment minister. The move follows after the Union ministry of environment, forest, climate change (MoEFCC) notified the Wetland (Conservation & Management) Rules, 2017, in September. The new rules have replaced the rules formulated in 2010.

Under the new rules, powers have been granted to the state government to protect and conserve wetlands. These rules call for setting up of state wetland authority in every state and Union Territory to be headed by environment minister. Now activities like conversion of wetland



for non-wetland purposes including encroachments, disposal of waste, construction activities and discharge of effluents from units will be prohibited. The forest officials reported that the state wetland authority have to prepare in three months list of all wetlands to be notified. These wetlands will have to be notified in six months.

Unplanned urbanization has resulted in urban floods in almost all towns in Kerala. K. Sukumaran Nair, environmentalist who was honoured with the State government's maiden Paristhithi Mithram Award stated that plugging of various natural flood escape routes following wanton conversion of wetlands and other natural water bodies for construction activities in the name of development has contributed to the flood. He added that the wetlands in the flood plains as well as urban areas should be conserved and managed wisely as they act as a natural sponge, absorbing and storing excess rainfall.

Similarly, construction of stormwater drains is as important as laying of roads and other infrastructure while expanding a city or town. Low-lying areas should be used as drainage basins and not for construction. Nair stated that the government should give top priority to the formulation of a pragmatic action plan to rejuvenate the wetlands and the tributaries of the Pampa, which is considered to be the lifeline of the Central Travancore region and the rice bowl of Kuttanad.

The poor condition of Varaalchal, a vast wetland in the flood plain area of Pampa River in Koipram grama panchayat, near Aranmula, bears testimony to the criminal negligence of the authorities towards wetland conservation. The district panchayat had rejuvenated the heavily weeded Varaalchal at a cost of Rs. 50 lakh a year ago. The 2.5-km-long, 150-metre wide wetland was known for its rich biodiversity, especially the inland fish species of *Channa (varaal)*. But, the Varaalchaal has once again degraded into a vast pool of Cabomba, an invasive species, as the authorities concerned failed to ensure its proper maintenance even after its rejuvenation a year ago.

District panchayat president Annapoornadevi had taken earnest efforts for the rejuvenation of Varaalchal. The rejuvenated Varaalchal had recharged the wells too in the vicinity a year ago. Mr. Nair said the lowering of the Pampa riverbed owing to indiscriminate

river sand quarrying over the past few decades had left the Varaalchal more or less delinked from the Pampa, except during floods.



The invasive weed, Cabomba, is spreading fast in the Varaalchal in the Pampa river basin.

Source: The Hindu Dt.: February 06, 2018

India's largest 'floating treatment wetland (FTW)' uses hydroponics to clean up the water body of Nekkampur Lake in Hyderabad city. Madhulika Choudhary, Head, Dhruvansh, an NGO stated that several plants on FTW can help to clean the lake by absorbing nutrients such as excess nitrates and oxygen present in the water and thus reduce the content of these chemicals.

The FTW on Nekkampur Lake was inaugurated on February 2, World Wetlands Day. Measuring 3,000 sq. ft., the FTW is a joint effort of Dhruvansh, the Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority, the Ranga Reddy district administration and other organisations. It has already been recognised by the India Book of Records as the largest FTW in the country.

Based on the soil-less hydroponics technique, the FTW comprises four layers. Floatable bamboo forms its base, over which Styrofoam cubicles are placed. The third layer consists of gunny bags. The final layer is of gravel. Ms. Choudhary stated that hydroponics permits plants to grow only on sunlight and water. There is no need of soil. There are small holes at the bottom which facilitate the flow of nutrients from the water to the plants (biological uptake process),

which are held upright by the gravel layer. Cleaning agents planted on the FTW include vetivers, canna, cattalis, bulrush, citronella, hibiscus, fountain grass, flowering herbs, tulsi and ashvagandha.



Plants on the 'floating treatment wetland' in Neknampur Lake.

Source: The Hindu Dt.: February 06, 2018

Micro-organisms growing on the FTW and plant root systems break down and consume the organic matter in the water through microbial decomposition. The root systems filter out sediments and pollutants. The NGO claims that FTW is strong, can hold huge weight and compared to sewage treatment plants, this method is much cheaper.

Periodic biochemical oxygen demand (BOD) readings are taken from the Pollution Control Board. When the project began, the BOD was 27 mg/l. Ms. Chaudhary reported that when the first small island (100 sq ft) was floated eight months back, it was too little to clean up the entire lake. She added that it's been expected within four to six months there will be a fundamental change because of the FTW.

Source:

- <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/nagpur/state-govt-sets-up-wetland-authority/articleshow/62988923.cms>



- <http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/tp-kerala/focus-on-conservation-of-wetlands/article22664417.ece>
- <http://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Hyderabad/tulsi-and-ashvagandha-to-purify-hyderabad-lake/article22637540.ece>

Report on Wetland Events

The state-wide synchronized wetland and forest bird survey launched in the Coimbatore city with the participation of as many as 70 volunteers from various city-based NGOs. The two-day survey covered 29 wetlands by 15 teams. Mr. N. Satheesh, District forest officer, Coimbatore forest division reported that the volunteers along with forest staff undertake the survey in wetlands from 6am to 9.30am on 07th February 2018 and photographed the birds. After the survey in wetlands, the team conducts a similar survey in forests. All the volunteers were given an orientation on how to spot the birds and the entire survey methodology. A volunteer stated that this survey takes place every January across the state. In many districts, the survey will take place inside sanctuaries and in some cities, in wetlands. An official reported that the entire survey is being coordinated by several bird experts, organisations such as World Wildlife Fund, CUBE and OSAI, and others. The compiled data will be sent to the state forest department.

Source:

- <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/coimbatore/its-time-to-take-count-of-water-forest-birds/articleshow/62827205.cms>

General Wetland News

A study by Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS) states that protecting the wetlands will prevent the bird hits at Navi Mumbai Airport. The final report of the baseline survey of birds around the proposed Navi Mumbai Airport by Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS) has suggested that surviving wetland areas, where thousands of local and migratory birds can be seen, must be protected to ensure that air disasters like bird hits do not occur when the airport is operational. The executive summary of the study spanning 60 months stated that the remaining wetlands, such as at T S Chanakya and behind NRI Complex (Seawoods Estate) along Palm



Beach Road, and Funde-Panje mudflats in Uran, must be strictly protected as important bird habitats to minimize the risk of bird hits at the new international airport.

The final report presented to Cidco, the nodal agency in-charge of the airport project stated that these are the only areas left for birds to roost during high tide, outside the proposed airport zone. In the absence of such measures, there is a high risk of birds congregating on open runways and spaces of the proposed airport area, which may result in bird hazard problems.

The study reported that near threatened congregatory species like the Lesser Flamingos and Eurasian Curlews were moving away from the seashore to the three inland wetlands during high tide. The movement of these tidal birds was very high during high tide, and they congregate at the inland sites to feed and rest.

Environmentalist Debi Goenka of Conservation Action Trust said that the site chosen for the airport is an environmental disaster. It is also a huge safety risk since the airport is surrounded by bird-rich habitats on all sides. As the BNHS report reveals, there is a huge risk of bird strikes. It is therefore quite certain that no airline will use the airport that poses a serious risk to passengers and aircraft. It is imperative the CM and PM review the location of this proposed international airport before more public funds are wasted on destroying the environment at this site.

Environmentalist D Stalin of the NGO Vanashakti reported that Navi Mumbai citizens are fighting a court battle to protect the bird-rich habitat at Seawoods, next to Palm Beach Road, from being converted into a proposed golf course. It is miserable to see precious wetlands and bird habitats being converted into sterilized man-made parks like this proposed golf course. He added that even in the proposed golf course case, BNHS stated that the wetland must not be changed into a golf course or clubhouse, as it will affect birds there. Cidco general manager (environment) D R Patil said that the issue will be taken into consideration and as the golf course issue is in court, it shall be abided by the final court order.

Source:

- <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/navi-mumbai/protect-wetlands-to-prevent-bird-hits-at-navi-mum-airport-study/articleshow/62761603.cms>