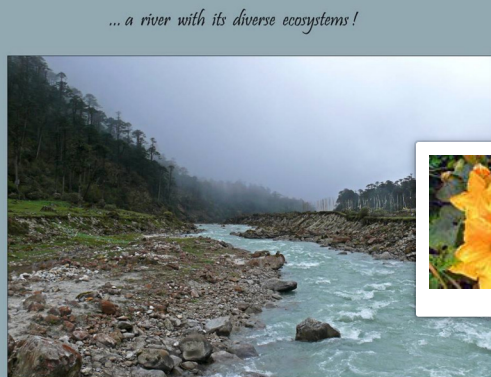




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... a river with its diverse ecosystems!

'Rivers - a flow of life !'

by

Ketaki Ghate

Founder & Partner :



Rashmi Pande

19 mutual friends including Pradnya Hegde and Sandhya Patil

Works at New Polytechnic, Kolhapur August 16, 1995 to present

* River Visit ... on Sunday, 18th November 07.30 to 8.30/ 09.00 am (details soon

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'River - a flow of Life !' by TheUntamedEarth

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'River - a flow of Life !' Saturday 17th November 2018 Greetings from the Vivant UntamedEarth Foundation The Second Series of lectures on Biodiversity & Environment got off to a great start with 'Rivers - a flow of life !' This inaugural lecture was delivered by Ketaki Ghate (Founder & Partner, Oikos for Ecological Services, Trustee - Ecological Society, Pune) Water is available on tap and is a mere commodity today. We no more need rivers for our sustenance. Although Mumbai is blessed with five rivers, we know 'Mithi' river only because of its notoriety during the recent flooding. So then how does one get to respect something like a river when there is no prior knowledge or information ? And Ketaki Ghate got the audience introduced to the 'river' as a river was always meant to be - a vibrant flow of life, right from its origin to its mouth. We were all on this enthralling journey of a wonderful meandering flow, through gurgling rapids to splendid flood plains right to its estuary. She got us introduced to the associated flora and fauna and the audience fell in love with the River. With such a beautiful flow of words and accompanying explanatory images, the audience was quick to follow why our ancestors revered the rivers as our mothers or why our ancient civilizations flourished on the banks of our rivers ... against this wonderful backdrop was the stark reality of today ... each and every river of our country struggling for its sheer existence and fighting a losing battle against pollution ! As we all joined in the flow and followed the course of this fabulous River, we were left gasping for more ... this was the whole objective ... to get to know the River not merely as a GIVER of LIFE but also as a FLOW of LIFE ! ... and how important it is in the broader ecological picture ! Let us hope that we become worthy of rivers once again. Ketaki also showed the view of the Dahisar River as it would give us all an overview of the actual course of the river. The lecture was the perfect backdrop for the actual River Visit planned for the next morning. Dahisar River Visit, Sunday 18th November 2018 at the SGNP - Borivali. There was an enthusiastic participation although we were to meet at the SGNP, Borivali, way off from the lecture venue at Dadar. But then this was the only opportunity to see a 'River' in its original state as it was within the protected area of the SGNP. We were already at the gates of the SGNP, well before the official entry time of 07.30 am (for some peculiar reasons, Park visitors can enter only by 07.30 am ... add another half hour to get to your trail starting point ... which is a rather late start !) After the official procedures were done, we gathered at the 3 D Model of the park at the Information Centre. Here Gopal Jhaveri of the River Marchers, gave us an overview of the topography, with a focus on the Dahisar River. We chose the Silonda Trail (one of the various trails open for the SGNP visitors) as it would bring us bang on to the Dahisar river. The trail offered a wonderful opportunity to get acquainted with the diverse tree life lining the trail. And we had Ketaki Ghate to help along the trail. We were also fortunate to have Ushaprabha Pagey with us, a very experienced and knowledgeable person and an avid columnist as well. Trees and plants now became individuals as their ids started rolling out. Then there were plenty of 'macro' subjects to stop and admire. The trail took us close to the river. Although there was no real flow of the Dahisar River, we could make out several familiar 'spots' from a river's course ... meanders, riffles, pools, riparian flora started making a different kind of sense. Several pools offered us glimpses of the micro fauna present ... there were crabs, spiders, the 'Hath Yogi water striders - with their long legs ably keeping them afloat on water, occasional butterflies making their grand entries ... and then there were wild flowers as well ... the participants were a mixed lot and there was a lot of expertise on diverse topics like butterflies, insects wild flowers etc ... it was one amazing and fun filled learning course of a trail. The weather gods were favourable and the walk on the trail was fairly comfortable. we hit a good spot and it was perfect to conclude the trail. There was the all important group photo and we began the walk back. Fortunately, we had a couple of vehicles to get the participants to the main gate, as it is quite a walk. The trail could not be concluded without a look at the stretch of

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concrete walls on both sides, limiting its flow and a place to dump garbage and sewage ... herein lies the tragedy of Dahisar ... or for that matter all our rivers or even water bodies !
 The Rivers to be truly rejuvenated will need a different kind of partnership ... the Government to make policies, statutes and to enforce them and the Public to respect our rivers and conduct themselves accordingly. Otherwise our rivers will continue to die a slow death with every passing day. The proverbial ball is now in our court as well !
 From TheUntamedEarth



Rashmi Pande

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Manasi Karandikar, Kirti Amritkar and 8 others

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Amit Amemba Sanjeev Shevade sir I missed it unfortunately... Had another prior appointment at Pune.

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