

# NEW DELHI NATURE SOCIETY MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Issue 02

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# You Tube

August, 2017

#### Green NFC



NDNS collaborated with NFC RWA, MCD horticulture department and NFC residents to plant 1 tree outside every house where there was a gap. Many residents were very cooperative, and there was a small percentage of people who did not allow MCD to plant trees on MCD land, forgetting that their private property finishes at their wall. We planted native trees, so they require less maintenance and support natural biodiversity. This is the new generation of trees in the colony, the previous plantation happened over 2 decades ago.

### **DIY Green City Actions**

If you are wondering what you can do to help the city become greener, here is an easy idea. During these days you can find neem or mango saplings growing in odd locations, these can be collected and put in pots with soil, then you can contact NDNS for delivery, or you can grow them for a few days and then send them to us. If they are left where they are, they may not survive very long because of lack of soil space. These saplings will be planted within Delhi NCR when they are big enough.



#### What's Inside?

- **1. Tree Plantation + DIY Actions**
- 2. Dilli Ki Soch + Animal Compassion + Mynah Rescue
- 3. Pragati Maidan Update
- 4. Kites Alert + No Plastics + Banyan Tree Goddess
- 5. Tree Census + De-Choking + Fire Fighting + Tree Felling

### Do you know how to Compost ?

Composting is one of the easiest and most effective way to save the world.

Its not Rocket Science

Visit NDNS for a FREE workshop!

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## **NEW DELHI NATURE SOCIETY** MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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## Green NFC-A Tree Plantation Drive

by Arpita Arora (9810459714)

he residents of NFC along with RWA and NDNS are planting Native Trees in the colony with complete cooperation from the MCD Horticulture department. This

being the best season for plantation, they are aiming for at least one tree per house. Trees which died and fell or were illegally removed, need to be replaced with new trees. Also native trees play a major role in fighting air pollution. It's best to have native trees, since they have big canopies with lots of foliage as compared to "ornamental trees"

This is the observation of Verhaen Khanna, a resident of NFC and founder New Delhi Nature Society. He urges everyone to contact their RWA and request for the same project and support them on the ground as much as they can. Trees will help replenish the groundwater table.

Not only will they reduce air pollution they will also reduce flooding by absorbing water which gets blocked due to plastics in drainage lines. And of course as we all know that they release oxygen for free, which we require to breathe for staying alive.

In this move of making NFC green, a lot of residents came forward in support of the mis-



sion, however there were few who didn't allow MCD people to plant trees on the land in front of their houses. You don't own the land beyond your front gate. Let's support Nature as Nature always supports us.



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Samvada, New Friends Colony

#### **Compassion for Animals campaign**

Have you ever pet a kitten ?

Last year the court said that children should be taught to interact with animals at the school level.

We had a session with underprivileged children

>>> Click HERE to watch the video <<<

#### **Rescued Mynah from NFC**

This little fellow had fallen out of the nest. It was on the

roadside unable to fly while the parents were trying to chase the hungry crows away. Since it was not going to survive with cats and dogs around, it was rescued, well taken care of and never caged.



#### Volunteer at NDNS

Use your skills to help the environment Learn new skills and knowledge Take up easy tasks to make a big impact >>>Click HERE<<<

#### Dilli Ki Soch, NDMC Convention Center



NDNS founder Verhaen Khanna was invited to speak on the panel at the NDMC convention center for an event organized by URJA, which is a collaboration of 3000 RWA's around New Delhi. Panelists were having an interactive session with the audience about air, water, and land. Verhaen Khanna said that the land is mostly cemented around the city, even around trees. These same trees reduce air pollution as well as replenish the ground water table and improve our health while increasing biodiversity of nature in the city. He also highlighted that, plastic waste blocks drainage lines and water overflowing from the drains needs soil space to percolate into the ground.



#### **Tree Census**

You can volunteer to count trees in NFC with NDNS. Learn how to identify trees and the importance of a tree census. This is a citizens initiative, so that we have easy access to information about trees in our area.



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#### Pragati Maidan Update

Delhi has the highest air pollution, more than 15000 trees have been cut over the last 3 years, thousands of more cars have been added on the roads. 1713 trees are going to be cut in Pragati Maidan, and only you can do something to save them.



Thousands of children around Delhi have written postcards to the Prime Minister to save these trees. So you must follow their example and ask the PM to save these trees. The architects need to integrate the trees into their building design.

These are big healthy trees in the heart of the city which clean the air pollution. Without them, imagine the health hazard from construction for all the school children in the vicinity and the people who work or commute through this area. The air is all connected, and we need all the greenery possible. In fact, we should save the trees and also try to extinguish all unnecessary roadside plastic waste fires, fireworks, burning of leaves.

#### SOS NUMBERS FOR TREES AND ANIMALS

NDNS - 9711115666 Fauna Police - 9212111116 Give Me Trees Trust - 8800326033 We started a Crowdfunding campaign on the website "Impact Guru" to support our expenditures for taking up this matter to the NGT.

Thanks to the amazing nature lovers, we have raised Rs 65,000 on this website till now.

The case was listed on the 10th of August and the next hearing is on the 24th of August.

Please click the link below to support this cause:

#### >>> Impact Guru Donation Link <<<

#### Activist will move NGT to For fror save Pragati Maidan trees M ass

NEWDELH: A Delhi-based environ-mentalist is moving the National Green Tribunal to stall the felling of 1,713 trees in the heart of the city. Activist Verhaen Khanna the founder of New Delhi Nature Society, who has been trying to raise funds for printing costs, lawyer's and court fees area all ELH: A Delhi-bas

lawyer's and court fees, says a g-ty its, school children, pe working in offices or con around this area are at great risk without these healthy trees. "More people need to take action without imagining that

ing will be okay everything will be okay and somehody else will come save us. The most polluted months of the year are approaching and we need all the greenery possible while spreading maximum waveness against burning waste and fireworks, understanding about air and weather, "he said. More than 1,700 trees may be folled to give way to the inte-

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tion centre at Pragati Maidan, as revealed by an RTI query. The Union environment min-istry has given the green

approval to the proposed project with some riders after taking into

account the recommendations of its expert panel. A letter granting the environment clearance was

ssued on Saturday to the implementing agency India Trade Pro-notion Organisation (ITPO),

ency reports stated.

all necessary clearances from all relevant agencies, including



mati Maidan is being redeveloped into a world-class exhibiti SONU MEHTA/HT PHOTO

town planning autority oesore commencement of work. It has been told to redevelop Pragati Maidan as per the local building bylaws and also barri-cade the construction site before work begins, besides taking ures to prevent dust, smoke and other air pollution. It has been asked to ensure dis-

posal of muck during construc-tion does not create any adverse effect on the neighbouring com-munities. It has been told to plant

minimum one tree for every 80 square metres of land.

Any appeal against this clear-ance will lie with the National Green Tribunal (NGT), the ministry has said. Forest officials had earlier issued permission for cutting

Among conditions specified, the ITPO has been asked to obtain 1,700 trees around Pragati Maidan as per Delhi Preservation of Trees Act and the required fee

over \$50,000 before August 15 with more than 20 donors will not

with the help of amazing people in Delhi," the activist said, adding that he along with other environ mentalists were in the process getting the documentation

gether before moving the court. More than 15,000 trees have already been felled in the Capital over the last three years. While more than 6,000 were cut in 2014-15, around 4,600 and 4,700 trees were felled in 2015-16 and 2016-17.

Hindustan Times

### >>> SIGN THE PETITION <<<

### **NDNS Whatsapp-Group link**

If you are a nature lover and you would like to share nature related posts and connect with other nature lovers around Delhi, to also help protect the environment, then join the WhatsApp group. Click the icon below:



Khanna had e urlier st Khanna had earlier started a separate crowd funding cam-paigntoraise funds for the cause. "We are still raising funds, the website impact guru had a scheme that NGOs which collect have to pay the tax and the com-mission amount. We have man mission amount. We have man aged to cross that requiremen Page 4

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#### Kite flying alert !



On 15th August, thousands of people in Delhi fly kites, some even use sharp thread.

We have observed many birds which get entangled with the thread hanging in trees or on poles and wires.

Many die if they are not rescued, others get serious injuries and even tear their wings while trying to escape.

Even humans get injured, just last year a young boy lost his life when his neck was cut by a kite flying thread.

So please celebrate independence day while taking care of the environment.

### <u>The Goddess Under The Banyan Tree</u> <u>>>>Click HERE <<<</u>

Contact us for Events and Enquiries

- Celebrate your birthday in nature
- Enjoy in nature with family, friends and colleagues
- Make your home / colony greener
- Any Environment related query ?

#### KSK Academy, No Plastics Campaign

Students of Kharag Singh Khalsa Academy were taught about the harmful effects of plastic bags and alternate solutions to make the world a better place. They learnt how to make paper bags from newspapers and also signed a pledge to not use plastic bags. Cloth bags can be made from old pillow cases or clothing, which will be washable, re-usable and biodegradable.

Say NO to shopkeepers trying to give you plastic bags. Carry your own bag.



Rs5,000 fine for possessing plastic bags in Delhi

The National Green Tribunal (NGT) imposed an interim ban on use of non-biodegradable plastic bags which are less than 50 microns in the entire national capital.

A bench headed by NGT Chairperson Justice Swatanter Kumar also announced an environment compensation of Rs 5,000 on anyone found in possession of such banned plastic.

The tribunal has also directed the Delhi government to seize the entire stock of plastic within one week.



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### NEW DELHI NATURE SOCIETY MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

#### **NFC Tree Census**

The importance of a tree census is so that we have all the information about the trees in our colony.

The tree type, location, height, girth, health, area of open soil around trees, nails, wires and cement.



We also include information about nests on these trees and various creatures found on the trees.

Come to NDNS for a quick workshop on getting started with your own colony tree census.

With all the data collected we can make some interesting statistics like, tallest tree, thickest tree, any trees missing, trees vs people ratio, trees vs cars ratio etc.

#### **De-Choking Trees**

We were informed about an NFC resident cementing a tree outside their property. After explaining the NGT order and logic for open soil space around trees, they immediately removed the cement and stones. Trees need soil space for water percolation to the roots, air movement through the soil and most importantly

the trees are alive and growing.



Read last months newsletter >> Click HERE <<

Have an interesting story related to nature? Send it to us and we may feature it in the next newsletter

#### **Fire Fighting at ISBT**

Sunday morning, cycling back to NDNS HQ from India Gate, saw big clouds of smoke rising from plastic garbage being burnt near "Barahpullah / ISBT", immediately called 100. Special thanks to Delhi Police, they arrived very quickly and got the fire extinguished by the locals before the fire service trucks could reach. The folks said that if they cant burn plastics then they will throw them in the "nalla" which is only a few meters away from river Yamuna, so we told them where to take it instead and also gave them a good lesson about air pollution, plus its effects on all the



children in surrounding areas.

#### **Illegal Tree Felling**

Saturday morning 5:30 am, men came with their weapons to chop trees without permission, near garden of 5 senses. Residents tried arguing but they kept chopping the limbs of trees. After trying to call the police, nobody could find the garden of 5 senses, then they called NDNS hotline so we suggested to call 100 again till the policemen arrive. Soon enough, police came and arrested 2 of the tree murderers.



#### **DONATE to NDNS**

Bank Details : New Delhi Nature Society A/c no. 630005009354 IFSC : ICIC0006300 ICICI Bank ,B-78 Defence Colony , New Delhi 110024