

Biodiversity Database for Smart City Initiative to be Launched Soon

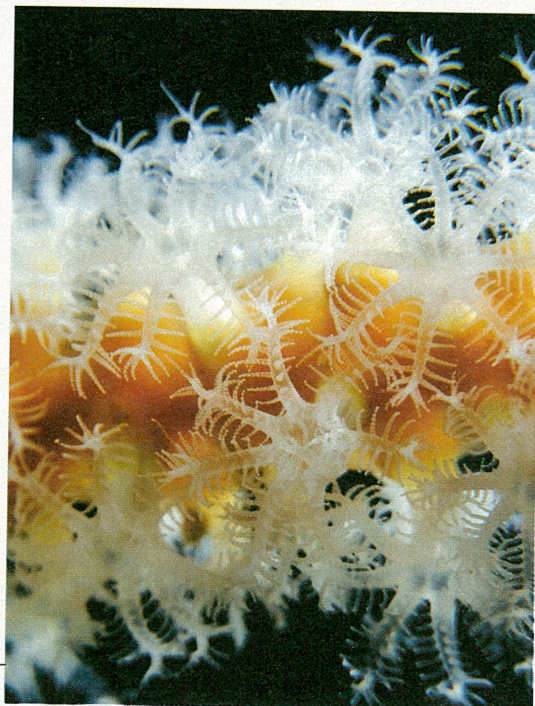
A biodiversity database for urban India will be prepared for better species diversity management, dovetailed to the smart city initiative. The National Botanical Research Institute (NBRI), Lucknow, has made a proposal in this regard to its parent organization, the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), which has given its consent. To start with, the NBRI will upload the published database pertaining to the local biodiversity of each city, including the varieties of plants and trees that are endemic to it. Local universities and members of the public can also submit details, which will be uploaded in the database after authentication by NBRI experts. Besides containing the database, the portal will also be an attempt to help the public and local bodies in enabling them to make the best choice for local plantation.

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com>

Lakes in Koramangala–Challaghatta are Most Polluted

Lakes in Koramangala–Challaghatta valley are more polluted than the ones in Vrishabavathi and Hebbal valleys. The study by the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), "Wetlands: Treasure of Bangalore", reveals that the valley receives more waste water at its inlets with higher organic contents, except phosphates. The survey of 105 wetlands says that 98 per cent are encroached upon by illegal buildings (high rises, commercial buildings, slums, etc.), 90 per cent of lakes are sewage fed, 38 per cent are surrounded by slums, and 82 per cent show loss of catchment area. The common threats faced by lakes in Bengaluru include dumping of building debris, plastic and solid waste into the water bodies, construction buildings near or on the lakes by developers, and improper and damaged fencing which increase encroachments in the area.

Source: <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com>



Snowflake Coral, a Serious Threat to Biodiversity

Colonies of snowflake coral (*Carijoa riisei*), an invasive species recently documented off the coast of Thiruvananthapuram and Kanyakumari, could pose a serious threat to the marine ecology of the region, according to scientists. Scuba divers working for Friends of Marine Life (FML), a local NGO, have recorded the presence of several colonies of the fast-growing alien species amid barnacle clusters on the rocky reef off the coast of Kovalam in Thiruvananthapuram and Enayam, Kanyakumari. The documentation was done as part of a research project harnessing the traditional knowledge of the fishermen community to assess the marine biodiversity of the region.

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com>