

## REPORT OF NATURE CLUB FOR 2019-2020

**10<sup>th</sup> July 2019**

The Nature Club of MES college of Arts and Commerce was inaugurated on the 10<sup>th</sup> July 2018. On the occasion of the inaugural function a documentary film “Saxtticho Koddo: The Granary of Salcete’ by Vince Costa was screened. Curtorim, located on the banks of the Zuari in Salcete the South of Goa, is a village that has had a strong agrarian heritage and is synonymous with the vast production of rice. The documentary focuses on how this traditional occupation is affected by shifts in attitude, labor shortages, GMO’s and unpredictable weather, only to name a few. The film won in the short documentary category at the Asia Independent film festival in 2018. This documentary was screened as part of the Kasturi Lecture series. Kasturi is a lecture discussion series held in memory of late Dr. Kasturi Dessai. This series is held by the Foundation for Environment Research and Conservation (FERC) in collaboration with MES College. These lectures touch on various topics of significance and concern to Goans by proving to be a platform for open discussions, knowledge exchange and sharing. On the occasion of the Inaugural function Parag Rangnekar and Shraddha Rangnekar, founder members of FERC were felicitated at the hands of Dr. N. M. Jambagi for their contribution towards environmental research and sustainable tourism practices. A new species of wasp recently identified from the forests of Western Ghats *Kudakrumia rangnekari* was named after Parag Rangnekar while Shraddha was awarded the ‘Empower Award’ as the ‘ Best Social Entrepreneurs of 2019’ for responsible tourism initiative.



The speaker for the day Mr. Vince Costa with the attendees of the talk

**14<sup>th</sup> August 2019**

The second lecture of the Kasturi series of lecture was held on 14th August 2019. The guest speaker for the day was Shri Prajal Sakhardande, Associate Professor, Dhempe college of Arts and Science. He spoke on the history and heritage of Goa with special reference to Vasco and its surroundings from earliest times to 2019.

The talk dealt with the history of Goa from pre Portuguese era, Portuguese era and post Portuguese era. Shri Sakhardande also highlighted various places of historical importance in and around Vasco. He also spoke about first rulers of Goa, the Bhoj kings, the Kadamba and Adil Shah rule, the Portuguese rule and the conversions, the influence of the Portuguese culture on Goan culture and Goa's Freedom Struggle.

In his talk he has also listed out Goan musicians, film directors, the first Goans in the field of sports. He also spoke about sites of heritage and historical importance in and around Vasco like the vertical caves of Hollant/Isorcim, Bogda Sada fort, the clock tower in Vasco and the first casino of goa which was in Vasco.

The talk was attended by staff and students of the college as well as general public from Vasco. The talk concluded with an interactive session with the speaker.



Shri Prajal Sakhardande, Associate Professor, Dhempe college of Arts and Science speaking on the topic 'History and heritage of Goa with special reference to Vasco and its surroundings from earliest times to 2019'.

**1<sup>th</sup> September 2019**

The third lecture of the Kasturi series of lecture was held on 11th September 2019. The speaker for the day was Mrs. Apurva Apte who is an energy auditor from the NGO Shubhankar environment services. Her talk spoke about how each one of us could be an energy champion.

She gave an overview of the various sources of energy and also highlighted the energy requirements of the state and how the requirement is fulfilled. The attendees were asked to carry their electricity bills with them. Through her talk Ms. Apte explained the various terminology in the electricity bill. She pointed out ways in which individuals can effectively use energy as well as conserve it. The talk was followed by an interactive session which involved the attendees raising their doubts about a various aspects of energy conservation in day to day activities. The attendees included students and staff of the college as well as general public from in and around Vasco.



Mrs. Apurva Apte, an energy auditor from the NGO Shubhankar environment services speaking about how each one of us could be an energy champion.



Mrs. Apurva Apte with Mrs. Lalita Joshi, Director, Planning and Development, M.E.S. College, members of FERC, faculty, students and attendees.

## 9th October 2019

The Kasturi series of lectures celebrated their first anniversary on 9th October 2019. The Kasturi lecture series is a joint collaboration between MES College and Foundation for Environment Research and Conservation (FERC) aimed at open discussions, knowledge exchange and sharing on various topics of significance and concern to Goans.

The youth icon of Goa Padmashri Wendell Rodricks was the guest of honour. Smt. Lalita Joshi, member of management council of MES College welcomed the august audience and gave an account of the Kasturi lecture series in the past year. Shri Parag Rangnekar spoke about the activities of FERC and the initiation of the Kasturi lecture series. Shri Wendell Rodricks talk revolved around being the pluralist persona. He spoke his early life and his foray into the world of fashion designing. He spoke in being true to his roots he achieved more fame. He strongly suggested that if we love what we do then our job will be our hobby. He also spoke how important it was to delegate work. He stressed on the importance of working for charity and how important it is to help the society and also not to be afraid to fight for a cause which one believes in. The talk concluded with an interactive session between the guest, students and assembled public.



Shri Wendell Rodricks with the guests and attendees on the 1<sup>st</sup> anniversary celebration of the Kasturi lecture series. His talk for the day revolved around being the pluralist persona.

**11<sup>th</sup> December 2019**

The fifth lecture of the Kasturi series of lecture was held on 11th December 2019. The speaker for the day was Shri Parag Rangnekar, Founder, Foundation for Environmental Research and Conservation (FERC). He spoke about how to create a butterfly friendly habitat.

Through his talk Parag explained the life cycle of a butterfly. He highlighted the various steps that needs to be undertaken for the creation of a butterfly friendly habitat. The steps involved in this processes included selection of a suitable site, knowledge of butterfly diversity in that area and the requirement of the butterflies. He also spoke about the different types of host and feeding plants and the butterflies associated with them.

The Kasturi lecture series is a joint collaboration between MES College and Foundation for Environment Research and Conservation (FERC) aimed at open discussions, knowledge exchange and sharing on various topics of significance and concern to Goans. The talk was followed by an interactive session and was attended by students and staff of the college as well as general public from in and around Vasco.



**Shri Parag Rangnekar, Founder member, Foundation for Environmental Research and Conservation (FERC) speaking on creating a butterfly friendly habitat.**

**26<sup>th</sup> January 2020**

M.E.S. College of Arts and Commerce and M.E.S. Higher Secondary has set up “Chrysalis” which is a joint effort between M.E.S. College Nature Club outreach activity Kasturi and FERC. It is a unique garden aimed at encouraging butterfly breeding and creating habitats for butterflies, insects and other organisms by planting appropriate plants. Volunteers from the NSS unit of the college, Nature Club and the Green Corps of M.E.S. Higher Secondary section under the expert supervision of FERC members worked together for the creation of the garden right from site selection to the planting of the plants for the habitat. The Lions Club of Cortalim provided the feeding and host plants for the butterfly garden. The garden was inaugurated on 26th January 2020 at the hands of noted architect and environmentalist K. D. Sadhle and Professor M. S. Kamat presided over the function. The talk attended by students and staff of the college, invitees, Lions club members as well as general public from in and around Vasco.



Noted architect and environmentalist K. D. Sadhle inaugurating the butterfly garden of M.E.S. College ‘Chrysalis’.

**11th March 2020**

The sixth lecture of the Kasturi series of lecture was held on 11th March 2020. The speaker for the day was Dr. Divya Karnad who is an Assistant Professor with the Ashoka University. She spoke on how to save the ocean one bite at a time.

Dr. Divya highlighted the concerns associated with declining fish stock around the world. She mentioned the Indian scenario was much better but the introduction of technology has led to a steady decline in the fish catch. Different fishing methods are practiced but the prawn trawl is considered to be the most destructive as it catches other species in addition to prawns. From her talk it could be inferred that among the 200 edible species available for consumption the popular choices were restricted to 68 species of fish. She also stressed on the fact that there was a disconnect between producers and consumers. She advocated the consumption of diverse fishes, choosing seasonal fishes and also supporting small scale fishing can go a long way in sustaining fisheries.



Dr. Divya Karnad, Assistant Professor with the Ashoka University with attendees of the lecture “How to save the ocean one bite at a time”.