



Youths learn about facets of Mhadei's diversity

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Keri: From enjoying a nature trail to participating in a tree plantation drive at Maloli, a group of 75 youths had a memorable experience recently, on the eve of World Environment Day, in the forests of the Mhadei river basin at Sattari.

Organised by the Vivekanand Environment Awareness Brigade of Keri, in association with the Mhadei Wildlife Sanctuary, the group was introduced to varied facets of Mhadei's biodiversity.

Developed by the wildlife division of Goa in Maloli, the informative and educative nature trail helped in sensitising them to the richness of biodiversity and informing them about unknown aspects of the forest and wildlife.

Suryakant Gaonkar from Bhuipal spoke about the floral wealth of the region. The session included a field study highlighting the medicinal and ecological significance of plants.

While walking through leaf litter, participants were enthralled to see a venomous hump-nosed pit viper in its natural habitat while multi-hued butterflies fluttered around them.

Vitthal Shelke spoke about reptilian diversity in the area. He also explained about pugmarks, scats and other evidence revealing the presence of wildlife. Subodh Naik showcased avian diversity and explained their role in the pollination process of the plants.

Range forest officer Deepak Tandel spoke to participants about how the lush green forest has been enriching the lives and livelihoods of people while providing shelter, food and fodder for wild animals. "The activities instilled in us the need to live in harmony with nature and the importance of environment protection," said Dr Krutika Gawas who took part in the plantation of some indigenous tree species.

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