

Greenolution *Digest*

Greenolution e-Newsletter, September 2018

**COVER
STORY**

2

Know your Neighbors!



**GREEN
QUIZ**

5



**GREEN
CLICK**

6



COVER STORY



Know your Neighbors!

When we hear the term urban biodiversity, a common reaction is “Are you talking about rats and pigeons?” While rats and pigeons are certainly a part of the system but urban biodiversity also includes the small stuff (like plants in the sidewalk cracks, insects feeding on those plants, and microbes on the surfaces of ... well, everything). Lots of parts of the city aren’t so heavily built-up – the parks and greenways, the low-density neighborhoods, or the outskirts of the city – and that these places are often greener (i.e., have more vegetation) and busier, biologically speaking.

When you consider this whole range – the variety of kinds of organisms and kinds of places in the urban matrix – it’s not hard to image that urban biodiversity can be quite rich.

- Matt Palmer (Columbia University)





The value of wildlife in cities is often underestimated. Nature in cities is not only a matter of cultivated and managed biodiversity such as urban parks, gardens and lawns. Nowadays, urban wetlands, abandoned industrial sites, roadside verges, vacant lots, derelict lands, ruins, allotment gardens and cemeteries are increasingly recognised as potential reservoirs of urban biodiversity together with arboreta, residential gardens and villas, botanic gardens and individual balconies.

Urban Flora and Fauna





What is not urban biodiversity!

It is **not** major glamour species tigers and elephants...

It is **not** about a wilderness ecosystem...

It is **not** a formal garden of exotic plants – 'greening'

What will happen if there is no urban biodiversity?

Birds will disappear

No pollination due to absence of butterflies, bees and beetles

Rats will increase due to absence of Raptors

How can urban biodiversity be conserved?

1. Preservation of patches of existing natural areas...
 - Forested patches / Hill slopes
 - Aquatic ecosystems: Riverfront/ Lakes/ Ponds / Seashore
 - New approach to public and private gardens:
 - Conversion of formal gardens to natural spaces
2. Using indigenous species of trees, shrubs and ground flora for gardens and roadside plantation.
3. Using water tolerant local trees for riverfronts.
4. Preserving open woodlots and roadside avenues
5. Avoid dumping waste in urban water bodies.



GREEN QUIZ

Quiz

1 What is earth's warmest year on record?

- A. 2012
- B. 2016
- C. 2010
- D. 2008

3 Which of the following is not alien and invasive species of plants in India

- A. Alternanthera philoxeroides,
- B. Cassia uniflora,
- C. Chromolaena odorata
- D. Lantana camara
- E. Cassia fistula

2 Which environmental crisis occurred in December 1952?

- A. A nuclear plant melted down in China, emitting radioactive material that contaminated farmland and sickened millions of residents for decades
- B. A toxic chemical spill off the coast of Texas poisoned the drinking water of 5 million residents.
- C. London was hit by four days of intense fog that led to the deaths of at least 4,000 people.
- D. A dust storm in Australia blanketed Sydney in a choking blanket of red dust —loose topsoil caused by a years-long drought.

4 Kick out the statement which does not belong there.

- A. Climate change can create mismatches between the flowering timing of plants and the Presence of pollinators
- B. Climate change is increasing the reach of disease-carrying organisms such as mosquitoes
- C. Bird migration patterns have already been affected
- D. Wetland habitats will be increasingly impacted and further endanger biodiversity
- E. Climate change increases ultraviolet (UV) radiation, with health impacts on humans and nonhuman

Send in your answers to
greenolution@tatapower.com



**Winner of Greenolution Quiz -
August 2018 -
Ranjan Praveen - Head - Mechanical**





**Mr. Rama Chandra Reddy Butcha,
Haldia - Chemical & Environment**



Mr. Nandkumar C, Tata Power Solar