



'Young Indians' aims to make beaches plastic-free

In the last two cleanliness drives, 3,800 kg of trash was collected

DIVYA CUTINHO @ Mangaluru

CONTINUING with their mission for a Swachh Mangaluru and plastic-free beaches, a group of members of Young Indians Mangalore and Surfing Swami Foundation undertook a beach clean-up initiative and collected 3,800 kg of non-biodegradable materials, including bottles, rubber, plastic and other trash littered around beaches.

Young Indians and CII, Surfing Swami Foundation along with Mantra Surf Club have been organising clean-up drives since 2016 under Swachh Bharat Mission.

Madhukar, member of Young Indians Mangalore, speaking to *The New Indian Express* said in the drive held last week at Mantra beach, as many as 140 participants with age group between 6 and 70 actively took part.

"This was the first beach clean-up event organised since the outbreak of pandemic with all the necessary Covid-19 precautions being implemented. The drive had been postponed due to excessive rains and flood



Members of Young Indians Mangalore and other associations during its clean-up drive at Mantra beach in Mangaluru

situation in the region."

On Sunday, another cleanliness drive was held at Idya beach at Surathkal. Temperature was checked, masks and gloves were provided to participants.

"Apart from the cleaning, we are also creating awareness on the importance of segregation of waste. We segregate glass, plastic and synthetic materials accordingly and keep them in different coloured bags to dispatch to a recycling plant at Baikampady," he said. Even DIG Coastguard Venkatesh and NMPT deputy chair K G Nath, Lions Club Mulki, Leo Club

Mulki, Mangalore Bicycle Club, Yuvavahini Mulki, Panchadurga Bappandu, Gajanana Sports Club Thokuru, Scouts and Guides, were also part of the drive.

During the drive, the participants collected 1,625 kg of glass items, liquor bottles, 975 kg of rubber and 600 kg of plastic waste. "Our main intention is creating awareness in the society involving youth. We have plans to extend it across the district and involve more youngsters and make them realise the worth of cleaning beaches and make the coastal beaches free of plastic," he added.

CM's letter to Union Min rekindles hopes of Gangolli-Kodi bridge

PRAKASH SAMAGA @ Udupi

FINALLY, protests demanding a bridge in Gangolli across Panchagangawali river have yielded results. CM B S Yediyurappa on September 17 wrote a letter to Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari asking him to



are small islands on the banks of Panchagangawali river. The sea walkway constructed in Kodi has already been a centre of attraction and it draws many tourists. Boating facilities to small islands can surely boost tourism prospects, sources said.

Meanwhile, fishermen fear

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