

COMING SOON: CLEAN AND GREEN AAREY



Locals collect garbage in Aarey Colony. BMC is helping with the process of garbage segregation

Residents team up with government to plant saplings, clean up land

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After the residents of the Aarey Milk Colony succeeded in saving their land from being used for the Metro III project, they have now teamed up with the Dairy Development Department, which owns the 3200 acre area, for a cleanliness and plantation drive called 'Clean and Green Aarey'.

Gajanan Raut, chief executive officer of the colony, told Mirror: "We have demolished 25-30 slum shanties and will soon be planting saplings in the area. The saplings, which we are raising, will be planted there once the slums are removed."

A dense growth of shanties cover two separate stretches of the Aarey Colony park. Local sources revealed that agents with vested interests still attempt to grab plots here and there, only to be fought back fiercely by the residents.

The Dairy Development Department are set to plant 15,000 saplings in the area – 5000 each in June, July and August, with the help of the local residents and an NGO called Vanashakti. They will receive the saplings from Vanashakti and also the BMC. Raut said: "So far, residents have always succeeded in their efforts to save Aarey. We are now looking at taking the new campaign forward."

Aarey Colony is home to over 3,000 members of the Warli tribe. It boasts of a wide range of flora and fauna, including 76 species of birds, 86 species of butterflies, 13 species of amphibians and 38 species of reptiles, along with animals like leopards, rusty spotted cat, jungle cat, sambar, monkey, civet and the barking deer.

"The movement has already started. To clean up Aarey, we are taking the help of the BMC, several NGOs, morning walkers and those involved with the Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan. The BMC is helping us with garbage segregation by providing containers. Such drives have already taken place at a New Zealand hostel and



The drive also aims to increase green cover

closer home, at Kamgar Kalyan Nagar," Raut added. D Stalin, from Vanashakti, said: "We want to turn the area into a no-plastic zone and add to its recreational value without altering the landscape. Plantation is very necessary to restore degraded areas Aarey hasn't seen a large scale afforestation drive in many years. The last afforestation drive was in 2002, when M Rameshkumar was the dairy development secretary."

Biju Augustine of the Save Aarey movement said: "Cleanliness is one of the main points on our agenda. I had earlier applied for permission for the plantation, but was stopped on the grounds that it would hamper necessary urbanisation. It is good that the government is starting this drive, we will definitely help them.

For my part, I will be distributing ten saplings of the alphonso mango to five Warli families who can later earn from it by selling the fruits"

CITY BRIEF



MAN ARRESTED FOR VANDALISING CHURCH STATUE IN BHANDUP

A 21-year-old man was arrested allegedly damaging a statue at a church in Bhandup by hurling a stone at it on Sunday night.

"Paulraj Yauvan Nadar was arrested after the incident occurred at Anthony Church," said Vinay Rathod, DCP (zone VI). He said the police are looking for Paulraj's brother Dinakaran, who was also involved.

A crowd started gathering at the spot after the incident, and the police intervened in time to defuse the

situation.

The police suspect that Paulraj was drunk at the time of the incident.

"Our team nabbed the accused Sunday night, but we registered the case against him on Monday morning after a complaint was lodged by one P Selvraj," said PR Chavan, senior inspector, Bhandup police station.

A case has been registered for trying to hurt religious sentiments.

PTI

PROMOTIONAL FEATURE

Scholarships at Study Abroad Fair

Several reputed universities and colleges will be offering partial scholarships to deserving students at the Study Abroad Fair, to be held in Mumbai on Friday 8th May 2015 from 10.30am to 5.30pm at Hotel Hyatt Regency, near Sahar International Airport, Andheri (E).

Students will be able to meet officials from over 60 leading universities and colleges from Canada, USA, UK, New Zealand, Australia, Switzerland, Singapore & Dubai.

Information on courses like Business, Engineering, Hotel Management, Tourism, Arts, Design, Science, MBA, Architecture, Culinary Arts, Biotechnology, Biomedical Science, Pharmacy, Physiotherapy, Nursing and I.T. would be provided.


Some of the participating institutions are: Amity, Anglia Ruskin, Bay State, Bedfordshire, Birmingham City, Bridgeport, Brunel, Canada, Charles Sturt, Chester, Cincinnati, Concordia, Confederation, Douglas, Dundee, Durham, Edinburgh Napier, EIT, Fanshawe, George Brown, Georgian, Heriot-Watt, Hert-

fordshire, HTMi, HULT, JCU, Kent State, King's College London, Kings University College, Le Cordon Bleu, Leeds, Leeds Beckett, Leicester, Lincoln, LJMU, LSBU, Manchester Metropolitan, Media Design School, Middlesex, Newcastle, Northampton, Northumbria, Nottingham Trent, NZSE, NZTC, Oxford Brookes, PIHMS, Portsmouth, QMUL, Saskatchewan, Sheffield Hallam, Southern Cross, South Wales, S.P. Jain, St. Andrews, St. Clair, Study Group, Swansea, Teesside, UCLAN, UCOL, University of Wales, Vancouver Film, VIU, Westminster and Wolverhampton.

Many institutions will be offering spot admissions. Kindly carry five sets of academic documents for on-the-spot assessment. Prior registration is compulsory.

For free registration log-on to the website: www.geebeeworld.com. Or call GeeBee Education: **Churchgate: 43222333** **Andheri: 40224480** **Borivali: 28998333** **Thane: 25388844** **Vashi: 27897040**. Free transportation will be available from/to Thane and Vashi.

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