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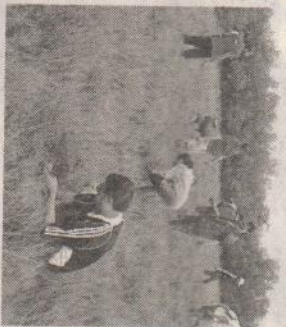
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## Home Work

# 'Mission Mangroves' to plant 1 Lakh Mangroves to save Mumbai from doom!

By: Prashant Gaitwad

Mulund: Mangroves are regarded as an the lungs of an eco-system because the mangrove forests are home to several species of plants, animals and marine life. They act as a natural barrier against floods; protect the shoreline from soil erosion and absorb almost eight times more carbon dioxide from the atmosphere than any other ecosystem. But alas this vital gift of nature is on verge of extinct in Mumbai due to man's hunger for more land. In the past 40 years mangroves have been mindlessly been cut off without realizing their importance that they are nature's guard to protect mother earth.



Mumbai Based NGO United Way of Mumbai has initiated a campaign 'Mission Mangroves'. Ajay Govale, a Mulund resident, working as Director- Community Impact of NGO - United Way of Mumbai, briefing 'Speak Out' about the save mangroves campaign said, "Mangroves play a vital role in the ecosystem hence protecting mangroves is most important or else Mumbai may yet again face calamities like the deluge of 26th July, 20015."

He added, "Hence we have decided to conserve mangroves in the Suburbs. We have already planted 10,000 Mangroves in Bhandup and plan to plant around 1 Lakh Mangroves in the wetlands of Mulund, Bhandup, etc. We have partnered with an expert NGO namely; Vanashakti for implementation of this project."



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- Ajay Govale, Director- Community Impact NGO United Way of Mumbai

However, it is tragic that despite knowing their importance people are wantonly killing the mangroves. Mangroves particularly around Mulund, Bhandup, Bhandup, Kanjur, Vikhroli, etc are fast disappearing due to the boom in land price in this suburb. However to protect these mangroves

Information about the more of operation Ajay said, "Before planting we take permission from government authorities and update them about the plantation."

"While planting these mangroves, our endeavour has been to engage volunteers from among corporate employees, college students and citizens thereby sensitizing and educating them about the importance of mangroves", he concluded.

## The funds allocated by BMC must be utilized and not reversed: Suresh Koparkar